HLS 19RS-1275 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Our Lady of the Angels Hospital for its Opioid Sparing Initiative

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To commend Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, Louisiana, on the establishment
3	of its Opioid Sparing Initiative, aimed at reducing the number of opioid prescriptions
4	given to patients by prescribing and using opioid pain treatment only in conjunction
5	with other proven drugs and protocols and not, generally, as the primary pain
6	reducer.
7	WHEREAS, a program at Our Lady of the Angels Hospital, dubbed "Opioid
8	Sparing", has been successful in reducing patient dependency on opioid pain relievers from
9	the moment a surgical procedure ends; patients are closely monitored by healthcare
10	professionals, beginning in the surgical recovery areas of the hospital, and the hospital has
11	been recognized for its efforts in national trade journals; and
12	WHEREAS, while the entire country has been affected by what is often referred to
13	as "the opioid crisis", Louisiana, and particularly Washington Parish, have been
14	disproportionately affected with physicians statewide writing one hundred eight opioid
15	prescriptions for every one hundred people in the state, a staggering reality; and
16	WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated in 2016
17	that nearly sixty-four thousand drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States and of
18	those, the CDC estimates that more than forty-two thousand involved an opioid drug, or
19	more than sixty percent of the total; and
20	WHEREAS, the CDC report also found that Washington Parish ranked second in the
21	five Louisiana parishes that led the state in opioid deaths; and

1	WHEREAS, faced with these numbers and the reality that this epidemic strikes
2	hardest in poor, rural areas similar to Washington Parish, the Washington Parish Coalition
3	on Human Services and Our Lady of the Angels Hospital, supported by the people of the
4	parish, established a program with a grant from Louisiana Partnership for Success offered
5	by the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority and the Louisiana Department of Health,
6	office of behavioral health; and
7	WHEREAS, that grant allowed for the establishment of the opioid sparing effort
8	focused on the hospital setting at Our Lady of the Angels, with surgeons, certified registered
9	nurse anesthetists, and registered nurses collaborating and involving the entire professional
10	staff in using, as a first step in post-surgical pain relief, transversus abdominis plane (TAP)
11	and associated blocks which are used in many abdominal procedures and typically provide
12	between sixteen and twenty hours of somatic pain relief; and
13	WHEREAS, the TAP blocks are ultrasound-guided, and instruction on this insertion
14	method is made available at the hospital for both nurse anesthetist students and the staff of
15	certified registered nurse anesthetists, increasing the number of staff who are proficient in
16	this procedure; and
17	WHEREAS, post-surgery, the anesthesia department follows up with all patients,
18	either in person or by telephone, to ensure that patients have sufficient pain relief, and most
19	do not require prescription oral medication of any kind for pain relief following the initial
20	block; and
21	WHEREAS, this multidisciplinary approach to an aspect of the practice of medicine
22	that can often lead to a dependency on opioid prescription medication has proven to be an
23	effective beginning to controlling opioid abuse, particularly when it begins with a
24	post-surgical patient; and
25	WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa and its staff have taken
26	a proactive approach to the fight against opioid addiction by looking at the beginning of such
27	dependency, which for many is with post-surgical pain, and is making a difference in the
28	lives of all their surgical patients by treating their pain without opioid drugs that could prove
29	more dangerous to their lives than, perhaps, the risk of the surgery itself; and

1 WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Angels Hospital and the Washington Parish Coalition 2 on Human Services received a certificate recognizing completion of the first year of the 3 grant financially enabling this new approach to pain relief; and 4 WHEREAS, situated in a rural area with serious economic hardships, Our Lady of 5 the Angels Hospital recognized the threat that opioids pose to the people in its service area 6 and has taken a bold and courageous step toward reversing the trend of ever-increasing 7 hospitalizations and deaths stemming from the abuse of opioid analgesics. 8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 9 commend Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, Louisiana, on the establishment of 10 its Opioid Sparing Initiative, aimed at reducing the number of opioid prescriptions. 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Our 12 Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 39 Original

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Commends Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa on the establishment of its anti-opiate addiction program.