

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 85

BY SENATOR MCMATH

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Healthier Northshore for its efforts to improve the overall health of the population in LDH Region 9.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Healthier Northshore for its efforts to improve overall health of the population  
3 in Louisiana Department of Health Region 9.

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks at or near the bottom of most health outcome measures;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the state's population has high rates of obesity, alarming rates of vaping  
7 and tobacco use, and mortality rates from chronic illness like cancer and heart disease that  
8 are some of the highest in the country; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana Department of Health Region 9 contains the state's healthiest  
10 parish, St. Tammany Parish, and the state's least healthy parish, Washington Parish; and

11 WHEREAS, Louisiana Tumor Registry indicates that St. Tammany and Washington  
12 parishes have higher rates of cancer incidence than the rest of the state; Washington Parish  
13 has the highest prostate cancer mortality in the state, particularly among African-American  
14 males; and lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death, accounting for more than  
15 breast, prostate and colorectal cancer deaths combined; and

16 WHEREAS, with COVID-19 lockdowns, patients have delayed or canceled annual  
17 screenings and, as such, more cancers are going undiagnosed, leading to anticipated  
18 increased mortality in the region; and

1           WHEREAS, taking the current public health situation into consideration, community  
2 health leaders in the St. Tammany Health System and Ochsner Health gathered a wide  
3 assortment of leaders in health care, community, civic, and government sectors to form  
4 Healthier Northshore, an advisory body focused on improving the overall health of the  
5 population of the region; and

6           WHEREAS, formed in September 2020, the council gathered renewed focus with the  
7 challenge Ochsner Health issued, announcing its goal to bring Louisiana from 49th in overall  
8 health to 40th by 2030; and

9           WHEREAS, Healthier Northshore will coalesce existing resources to address  
10 challenges that contribute to the current health standing of the region, focusing on residents  
11 of St. Tammany and Washington parishes, using the collaborative nature of hospitals, health  
12 companies, civic institutions, community groups, and elected officials as the catalysts for  
13 change; and

14           WHEREAS, Healthier Northshore focuses on the following:

15           (1) Teaching residents the benefits of good nutrition, regular physical activity,  
16 abstaining from nicotine consumption (vaping, smoking, chewing), and good mental health;  
17 and

18           (2) Offering opportunities to have biometric and cancer health screenings at  
19 community-based, employer-based, and public events; and

20           (3) Being a central point of information and resources for residents to connect people  
21 with resources including primary care resources, specialty resources, and social support  
22 resources; and

23           WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend the efforts of the St. Tammany Health  
24 System and Ochsner Health together with health care, community, civic, and government  
25 sector leaders at Healthier Northshore.

26           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
27 does hereby commend Healthier Northshore for its efforts to improve the overall health of  
28 the population in Louisiana Department of Health Region 9.

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
30 Anne B. Pablovich, Community Health Coordinator, St. Tammany Health System.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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SR 85 Original	DIGEST 2021 Regular Session	McMath
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Commends Healthier Northshore for its efforts to improve the overall health of the population in LDH Region 9.