

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend the LSU Health Foundation New Orleans and Dr. Steve Nelson, Interim Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, upon receipt of a \$7.5 million gift to fund ten four-year scholarships to the medical school.

WHEREAS, Dr. Steve Nelson's leadership in academic medicine, notably as Dean of the Medical School and Interim Chancellor at LSU Health Sciences Center, has been characterized by a tireless pursuit of excellence and innovation; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of State University of New York at Stony Brook, Dr. Steve Nelson earned a medical degree as a University Scholar at McGill University, and completed a residency in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins University along with a Clinical Fellowship in Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine, a Research Fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine, as well as a Fellowship in Environmental Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Steve Nelson's illustrious career has spanned decades of unwavering dedication to the advancement of medical science, healthcare education, and compassionate patient care; he joined the faculty of the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans in 1984, became the John H. Seabury Professor of Medicine in 1985, and further held joint appointments in the Departments of Physiology, Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology, and in the School of Graduate Studies; and

WHEREAS, confidence in Dr. Nelson's leadership, dedication, and experience in the advancement of medical science and healthcare education is evidenced through the generosity of the Estate of Marcia and Billy Beer in the recent gift of \$7.5 million to the LSU Health New Orleans Foundation; and

WHEREAS, this generous endowment, the largest in the Foundation's history, sets a new standard for philanthropy in support of medical education and will have a profound

and lasting impact on the lives of countless aspiring physicians and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the decision to allocate these funds for four-year tuition scholarships at the LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine reflects a deep commitment to fostering the next generation of healthcare professionals; and

WHEREAS, by funding additional scholarships through the interest earned on this gift while preserving the principal, the Beer family has ensured that their legacy will continue to benefit future generations of students indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, the unique request from the Beers family, asking scholarship recipients to give back by providing one day of free medical care each month upon completing their medical training, demonstrates a profound understanding of the importance of compassionate healthcare and community service; a stipulation that not only honors the spirit of generosity embodied by the Beer family but reinforces the values of altruism and empathy within the medical profession; and

WHEREAS, through the foresight and generosity of the Estate of Marcia and Billy Beer for this transformative gift to LSU Health New Orleans Foundation, their legacy will endure through the countless lives touched by the recipients of these scholarships, who will carry forward their spirit of generosity and service throughout their medical careers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Steve Nelson, Interim Chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, for his dedication to medical education and the Beer Family for their foresight and generosity of this extraordinary gift of \$7.5 million to the LSU Health New Orleans Foundation providing four-year scholarships to LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine in perpetuity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Steve Nelson, Interim Chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans and Mr. Michael Flick, long-term friend and executor of the Estate of Marcia and Billy Beer.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE