

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY SENATOR LONG

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To provide for legislative approval of and to express support to the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University for the strategic collaboration with the state relating to the closure of Huey P. Long Medical Center to facilitate a new model of health care delivery in the Alexandria and Pineville area.

WHEREAS, a sudden reduction in federal funding for the Louisiana Medicaid program was included in a sweeping transportation bill passed by the United States Congress and signed into law on July 6, 2012, and resulted in a net decrease of over eight hundred fifty million dollars in the Medicaid budget for the current state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this dramatic cut to Medicaid funding, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) is addressing the shortfall by eliminating funding for state hospitals operated by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU); and

WHEREAS, DHH has led the development of public-private partnerships for the delivery of health services at LSU hospital facilities operated by private healthcare enterprises, with the terms and conditions for such service delivery to be set forth in cooperative endeavor agreements among the state, LSU, and private providers; and

WHEREAS, the state, LSU, CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical Center have entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement to formalize a collaboration to improve access to health care for citizens in the Alexandria and Pineville area; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the need to maintain and continue proper health care in the Alexandria and Pineville area, including inpatient, emergency, and outpatient care; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that maintaining the existing graduate medical

education programs in central Louisiana is critically important to that region, and it is the legislature's express desire that the parties to the cooperative endeavor agreement work together to maintain graduate medical education programs in central Louisiana and maintain or obtain funding for those programs when possible; and

WHEREAS, the Huey P. Long Medical Center currently maintains and operates hospital beds for inpatient care and an active emergency department; and

WHEREAS, the cooperative endeavor agreement includes a provision to cease inpatient care and emergency department services at the Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville, Louisiana, which is currently operated by LSU; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes, and the cooperative endeavor agreement provides, that the inpatient and emergency department care currently provided at the Huey P. Long Medical Center are available at CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes, and the cooperative endeavor agreement provides, that the outpatient services currently provided at the Huey P. Long Medical Center are being provided at new outpatient clinics operated by CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the cooperative endeavor agreement, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical Center have increased access to healthcare services available at their facilities in the Alexandria and Pineville region since December 2013; and

WHEREAS, in December 2013, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital opened a new medical clinic, coumadin clinic, cardiology clinic and pharmacy in Alexandria to meet regional outpatient clinical needs; and

WHEREAS, in December 2013, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital opened a new eighteen bed inpatient psychiatric patient unit in Alexandria to meet the needs of the Alexandria and Pineville region; and

WHEREAS, in December 2013, Rapides Regional Medical Center opened an urgent care and pharmacy services clinic in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, in January 2014, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital opened a

gynecology clinic, a pediatric clinic, and a general surgery/orthopedic clinic in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, in January 2014, Rapides Regional Medical Center opened an urgent care and multi specialty clinic on the current Pineville Huey P. Long Medical Center campus; and

WHEREAS, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Rapides Regional Medical Center, and Huey P. Long Medical Center leadership have worked in collaboration since October 2013 to ensure patient healthcare needs are met during this transition and in the future; and

WHEREAS, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Rapides Regional Medical Center, and Huey P. Long Medical Center leadership have provided coordinated community outreach through multiple patient notification letters, resource map guides which are updated monthly, community HELP line, and several community meetings; and

WHEREAS, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical Center have committed to operating transitional clinics, which are currently open, and building three permanent outpatient clinics, on which construction has already begun; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that the closure of the inpatient beds and the emergency department services at Huey P. Long Medical Center requires authorization by the legislature through a concurrent resolution, pursuant to R.S. 17:1518.1(F).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its approval of and support for the actions of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College with regard to the delivery of healthcare services in the Alexandria and Pineville region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the continuing interest of patient safety, the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its approval of and support for the closure of the inpatient beds and the emergency department at the Huey P. Long Medical Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature expresses its appreciation for the physicians, healthcare professionals, and staff of the Huey P. Long Medical Center who have served the residents of the Alexandria and Pineville communities with dignity and caring since 1938.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LSU Board of Supervisors and the division of administration continue to work with the central Louisiana legislative delegation to find the appropriate future use for the Huey P. Long facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution constitutes legislative approval, in accordance with the requirements of R.S. 17:1518.1(F), for the closure of the inpatient beds and the emergency department at the Huey P. Long Medical Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby endorse and express support that the parties to the cooperative endeavor agreement work together to maintain graduate medical education programs in central Louisiana and maintain or obtain funding for those programs when possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor, the commissioner of administration, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES