

2016 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Chancellor Robert A. Barish, MD, for his extraordinary leadership at the LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport and for improvements in health care opportunities in the state of Louisiana.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Robert A. Barish, MD, Chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Science Center in Shreveport, for extraordinary leadership which has resulted in improved academic accreditation and increased health care services for the populous of North Louisiana and the state at-large.

WHEREAS, LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport is an integrated network of academic medical training composed of the School of Medicine, the School of Graduate Studies, and the School of Allied Health Professions, along with E. A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe and Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville that collectively facilitate one-half million patient visits annually; and

WHEREAS, before Dr. Robert A. Barish began his service in 2009 as chancellor and dean, following Dr. John C. McDonald, he had amassed an inordinate background of knowledge and experience in the field of medicine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barish is a biomedical innovator with a superb work ethic who possesses a fearless sense of adventure, an appetite for new professional challenges, and the insight to create clinical efficiency in complex medical infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, as an emergency medicine intern, Dr. Barish joined the International Rescue Committee, founded by the late Dr. Albert Schweitzer, to provide assistance to

1 rudimentary clinical facilities in Cambodia, Somalia, and Kuwait; and

2 WHEREAS, returning to the United States, Dr. Barish completed his residencies in
3 internal medicine at St. Vincent Hospital in New York City and in the newly-emerging
4 specialty of emergency medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine in
5 Washington, D.C., and he obtained an advanced MBA degree from Loyola University-
6 Maryland; and

7 WHEREAS, he was the youngest person appointed chief of hospital emergency
8 services at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where he served for twenty-four
9 years; that program evolved into one of the largest programs of its kind in the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Barish also enlisted in the Maryland Air National Guard, became
11 a flight surgeon in aerospace medicine, and became a candidate in the astronaut program at
12 NASA; and

13 WHEREAS, as chancellor, Dr. Barish accelerated growth by implementation of the
14 Vision 2020 strategic plan and, through its development, enrollment increased by
15 twenty-five percent and in 2014 and 2015, applications for admittance exceeded all previous
16 school records; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Barish and his leadership team achieved a decade of reaffirmations
18 with commendations for leadership, operational effectiveness, and contributions to the
19 regional workforce from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

20 WHEREAS, during his tenure the institution achieved full accreditation from the
21 Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the Residency Review Committee, the
22 Association for Accreditation of Human Research Participant Protection Programs, as well
23 as a five-year approval rating from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical
24 Education; and

25 WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of a skilled faculty in preparing future
26 health care professionals and improving the availability of quality health care to North
27 Louisiana and the state, Dr. Barish successfully recruited more than thirty exceptional
28 physicians and specialists, earning him the reputation of "most valuable recruiter"; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Barish holds prestigious affiliations and fellowships with Alpha
30 Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, the American College of Emergency Physicians, and

1 the American Academy of Emergency Medicine; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Barish took patient care into the community through Barbers for
3 Blood Pressure Awareness and mobile 3-D mammography screening; and

4 WHEREAS, he further developed community awareness of life-saving techniques
5 through events such as "An Evening For Heroes", a program that highlights the expertise of
6 911 operators and trauma surgeons; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Barish serves the community through participation in organizations
8 such as The Strand Theatre, Committee of 100, the Barksdale Global Power Museum, the
9 Military Affairs Council, and Boy Scouts of America, Inc. to name a few; and

10 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana owes Dr. Barish a debt of gratitude for his
11 humanitarian efforts as a volunteer physician who brought much-needed medical treatment
12 to Jefferson Parish in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

13 WHEREAS, Robert Barish shares his wonderful life with his wife, Jenny, and their
14 daughters, Dani B. Blevins, Liza, and Sophie; Liza continues the family tradition in her final
15 year of medical school; and

16 WHEREAS, as Dr. Robert Barish now enters a new phase in his phenomenal career,
17 as vice chancellor for health affairs at University of Illinois at Chicago, he is appreciated as
18 a renaissance man of many skills and talents; for his mentorship that has advanced others in
19 his profession; and for his leadership that has elevated LSU Health Sciences Center
20 Shreveport to a higher realm in the national hierarchy of academia, clinical care, and
21 research.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23 commend Robert A. Barish, MD, Chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Science
24 Center in Shreveport, for extraordinary leadership in the advancement of the institution and
25 for the rich legacy of medical instruction and research that he leaves to the state.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend
27 its best wishes to Dr. Robert Barish for success in all future endeavors.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
29 Robert A. Barish, MD.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

SCR 50 Original

DIGEST
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Peacock

Commends Dr. Robert A. Barish for his many contributions to LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport.