

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY SENATORS WHITE, BROOME, DORSEY-COLOMB AND WARD AND REPRESENTATIVES BARROW, CARTER, FOIL, GREENE, HAVARD, HODGES, HONORE, HUNTER, HUVAL, JAMES, PONTI, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN AND ALFRED WILLIAMS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to protect certain hospitals from the negative financial consequences of the closure of Earl K. Long Medical Center by adequately compensating those hospitals for their increased burden of providing care to the poor and uninsured residents of the greater Baton Rouge region.

WHEREAS, Earl K. Long Medical Center provided much needed health care services to residents of the greater Baton Rouge region who were uninsured or covered by the state's Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, Earl K. Long Medical Center was scheduled to close in November 2013 but closed on an accelerated schedule on April 15, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals published a rule to adjust the reimbursement methodology for hospitals that could demonstrate a significant change in the number of uninsured treated within six months before the scheduled closure of Earl K. Long Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College and the Department of Health and Hospitals entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement pursuant to which responsibility for the care of the patients formerly served by Earl K. Long Medical Center was assumed by Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such cooperative endeavor agreement, much of the care formerly provided by Earl K. Long Medical Center was transferred to the campus of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and away from the campus of Earl K. Long Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, despite the best efforts of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, a significant number of the patients formerly served by Earl K. Long Medical Center, many of whom are uninsured, have chosen to seek their health care not at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center but through the emergency departments of hospitals closer to the former Earl K. Long Medical Center campus; and

WHEREAS, the care provided to those patients formerly served by Earl K. Long Medical Center is causing a severe financial strain on those hospitals nearest to the former campus of Earl K. Long Medical Center that the department's rule does not address, and current Medicaid funding to those hospitals is inadequate to protect those hospitals from the consequences of that significant increase in such care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to modify its reimbursement methodology for hospitals, subject to the approval of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to provide enhanced reimbursement for indigent patients presenting for outpatient treatment or requiring inpatient admission and not able to be transferred, for community owned hospitals or hospital service districts that are within fifteen miles of the former campus of Earl K. Long Medical Center and that have an increase in indigent emergency room visits greater than ten percent from the date of the announcement of the closure of Earl K. Long Medical Center compared to the first full three month period after closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana has determined that Baton Rouge General Medical Center and Hospital Service District No. 1 of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, doing business as Lane Regional Medical Center, meet the foregoing criteria.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals and to the governor.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES