

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to provide a written, detailed overview and time line for the closure of the Earl K. Long Medical Center, including specifics relative to the transfer of its medical education and inpatient hospital care to Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center.

WHEREAS, the Earl K. Long Medical Center is a state-run, acute care medical facility that serves East Baton Rouge Parish and the seven surrounding parishes within its designated coverage area: Ascension, West Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, and Pointe Coupee; and

WHEREAS, the Earl K. Long Medical Center's mission is to provide quality care to residents in East Baton Rouge Parish and the surrounding parishes, regardless of their financial status; and

WHEREAS, as a public hospital, the Earl K. Long Medical Center has maintained the public's trust through competent care and service to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Earl K. Long Medical Center supports the community it serves through health education and preventive services; and

WHEREAS, the Earl K. Long Medical Center serves as a teaching hospital for physician education; and

WHEREAS, the Earl K. Long Medical Center's organizational philosophy and core values are access, advocacy, respect, knowledge, excellence, and quality; and

WHEREAS, the cooperative endeavor to close Earl K. Long and move its graduate medical teaching facilities and inpatient care to Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center was approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget on March 19, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Earl K. Long Medical Center could increase the number of uninsured and poor patients visiting other hospitals in the area without sufficient resources to adequately compensate these hospitals for their care; and

WHEREAS, the Earl K. Long Medical Center has served as a primary source of care for generations of underprivileged people in the area who will be forced to search for alternatives to the quality of care that the Earl K. Long Medical Center has provided over the years; and

WHEREAS, many residents of East Baton Rouge Parish and the seven surrounding parishes that the hospital serves have lingering questions concerning its closure, including the time line of the closure, patient education about the transfer, continued quality of care to indigent patients, transportation of patients to other hospitals, and the future employment of current Earl K. Long Medical Center employees; and

WHEREAS, many of the residents in these parishes have expressed concern regarding the equitable delivery of health care; and

WHEREAS, the surrounding community needs some assurance that the core principles upon which the Earl K. Long Medical Center was founded will continue at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College as part of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center should provide a written, detailed overview and time line for the closure of the Earl K. Long Medical Center, including specifics relative to the transfer of its medical education and inpatient hospital care to Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center and including the cost of this collaborative to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE