

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Kenneth Joseph Cochran, CEO of Opelousas General Health System upon being recognized by the National Rural Health Association, American Hospital Association, and HIMSS.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Kenneth Joseph Cochran, president and chief executive officer of Opelousas
3 General Health System in Opelousas, Louisiana, upon being recognized by the
4 National Rural Health Association (NRHA), the American Hospital Association
5 (AHA), and Healthcare Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) for his
6 leadership at the hospital and the entire health system.

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Cochran holds a doctor of science degree in healthcare
8 leadership (DSc.), is clinically trained as a registered nurse (RN), is a fellow of the American
9 College of Health Executives (FACHE), and is, since July 1, 2015, the president and chief
10 executive officer (CEO) of Opelousas General Health System; and

11 WHEREAS, Kenneth Cochran's more than twenty years of healthcare leadership
12 experience includes fifteen years of hospital leadership as president and CEO of
13 River Valley Health Partners in East Liverpool, Ohio, and, prior to that, he was CEO of
14 Cibola General Hospital in Grants, New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, Dr. Cochran is one of only two healthcare leaders who
16 were recognized by these national healthcare leadership organizations and only sixty
17 individuals were recognized nationally; and

18 WHEREAS, the recognition highlights leaders who possess extensive experience in

1 healthcare management, demonstrating their commitment to providing high quality,
2 accessible care to rural populations, but also who involve themselves in economic nonprofit
3 organizations and community and state organizations; and

4 WHEREAS, the NRHA, AHA, and HIMSS look beyond the leadership of the
5 hospital where these healthcare executives are employed, and require attention to the
6 surrounding community and state by involving themselves in chambers of commerce and
7 state hospital associations, exhibiting a broader scope of influence than that indicated by the
8 mere leadership of a rural hospital; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Cochran is deeply involved in his community and his parish, serving
10 as the president of the Rotary Club of Opelousas Sunrise and chairman of the St. Landry
11 Chamber of Commerce; he is a committee member of the St. Landry Parish Strategic
12 Planning Committee, a member of Vision St. Landry, and the Louisiana State University at
13 Eunice advisory board; and

14 WHEREAS, at the state level, Dr. Cochran was recently appointed to the Louisiana
15 Hospital Association (LHA) board of directors, is a trustee of the LHA's research and
16 education foundation, and is a member of the legislative review and policy committee; he
17 has been recognized nationally by the American College of Healthcare Executives with their
18 Regent's Award and Early Career Healthcare Executives; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Cochran has led Opelousas General's two hundred nine bed,
20 two-campus facility at a time when all the indicators signaled a dubious future for the
21 facility, with negative revenue and fewer admissions; however, he reshaped the system such
22 that revenues grew significantly and he expanded the health system by building an eleven
23 thousand square foot cancer center, bringing twenty new physicians into the healthcare
24 system as a whole; and

25 WHEREAS, since 1957, Opelousas General Health System has been dedicated to
26 providing quality healthcare through its high standards and strong commitment to serving
27 the rural area surrounding Opelousas, and while serving as the area's referral medical center,
28 advanced its commitment to state-of-the-art technology; and

29 WHEREAS, Kenneth Cochran, DSc., RN, FACHE brought experience in the rural
30 hospital industry to his leadership at Opelousas General Health System; his expertise gained

