

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY SENATOR FRED MILLS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes 2020 as the Year of the Nurse in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, a visionary nurse and leader, and in recognition of the vital role of nurses in the provision of health services worldwide.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate the year 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse" in honor of the 200th anniversary of
3 the birth of Florence Nightingale, a visionary nurse and leader, and in recognition of
4 the vital role nurses and midwives play in providing health care services worldwide.

5 WHEREAS, in 2019, the World Health Assembly, the International Council of
6 Nurses, and the American Nurses Association designated 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse",
7 in grateful recognition of the vital role these health care providers play in the health and
8 well-being of Americans and the citizens of the state of Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, in January, 2020, for the eighteenth consecutive year, the Gallop poll
10 indicated that the nursing profession was voted the most trustworthy and ethical profession
11 of all professions, an honor well-deserved and disputed by few; and

12 WHEREAS, the nurse's essential role in care coordination improves patient care
13 quality, safety, satisfaction, and health outcomes and decreases costs across patient
14 populations and health care settings; and

15 WHEREAS, professional nursing is a crucial component of health care delivery
16 systems, especially in times of crisis, such as in the aftermath of natural disasters, including,
17 hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike, and, currently during the coronavirus pandemic
18 when nurses have worked selflessly and tirelessly on the frontlines, at times, without

1 adequate personal protection, to care for patients with COVID-19, despite the risk to self and
2 family; and

3 WHEREAS, nurses serve people across their life span from their very first moments
4 of life to their last, in all life stages, and in a wide variety of settings, including in schools
5 as school nurses, in higher education as educators, in communities as public health nurses,
6 on military bases around the world, in hospitals and field hospitals as military nurses, and
7 in health care facilities at the bedside, as nurse leaders, as case managers, in quality
8 development, infection control, and as mental health nurses in a variety of settings; and

9 WHEREAS, registered nurses with advanced degrees and licensure serve the public
10 in roles such as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, and nurse
11 midwives, all playing a key role in the future of health care, often as primary care providers,
12 and are at the forefront of providing preventive care services to the public in diagnosing and
13 treating illness, managing chronic disease, and the like; and

14 WHEREAS, nearly sixty-eight thousand registered nurses, including those with a
15 bachelor of science degree, advanced practice registered nurses and sixteen thousand
16 licensed practical nurses represent the largest groups of health care professionals in
17 Louisiana and their clinical expertise has expanded critical access to care, especially in rural
18 settings; and

19 WHEREAS, throughout the two hundred years since the birth of Florence
20 Nightingale, the nursing profession has adapted and changed its practices to better serve and
21 to increase positive health outcomes for their patients, answering the call in peacetime and
22 in war, in the face of natural disasters, and an unprecedented world pandemic, as well as the
23 day-to-day health care crises faced by all, and the nurses have met every challenge and
24 bettered the lives of their patients, even at risk of their own health security and that of their
25 families, bringing honor upon their profession and deserving the thanks of all.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
27 does hereby designate the year 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse" in honor of the 200th
28 anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, a visionary nurse and leader, and in
29 recognition of the vital role nurses and midwives play in providing health care services
30 worldwide.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
2 Randal Johnson of the Southern Strategy Group, on behalf of Louisiana's nurses and
3 midwives, exceptional contributors to the health and well-being of all of Louisiana's citizens.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

SR 31 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Fred Mills

Designates the year 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse" in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale and in recognition of the vital role nurses and midwives play in providing health care services worldwide.