

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATOR GATTI

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centers in Shreveport and in New Orleans for their ongoing contributions to the development of healthcare in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louisiana currently has a healthcare workforce shortage as evidenced by the state's low ranking in healthcare providers, including thirty-sixth for nurse practitioners, fortieth for dentists, forty-second in primary care physicians, and forty-fourth for physicians assistants; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Health Works Commission study found that 2,892 primary care physicians are needed by 2020 to replace retiring physicians and meet the increasing healthcare demands, and over 360 new primary care physicians are needed annually – more than the current number of all physician graduates from Louisiana medical schools; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, Louisiana healthcare demands are projected to increase due to aging population as the sixty-five-year-old population will double by 2030 and the increase in health insurance coverage due to the Patients Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, investing in healthcare workforce development is necessary to meet this healthcare demand; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks high in recruiting and retaining medical students as 91.1% of Louisiana students accepted into medical school choose to attend an in-state school, which rates first in the nation; 70% of active Louisiana physicians trained at LSU; 75% of active Louisiana dentists trained at LSU; and two-thirds of Louisiana medical school graduates who train at Louisiana are teaching hospital practice regionally; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of LSU Health Sciences Centers is 1.4 billion dollars with an impact of 900 million dollars at New Orleans and 521 million dollars at Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the current student enrollment of LSU Health Sciences Centers includes 1,244 in the School of Medicine, 706 in the School of Allied Health Professions, 1,385 residents and fellows, 167 in the School of Graduate Studies, 392 in the School of Dentistry, 1,049 in the School of Nursing, and 115 in the School of Public Health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centers in Shreveport and in New Orleans for their ongoing contributions to the development of healthcare in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport and to the Dean of the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE