

2016 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUNTER, COX, AND GLOVER

A RESOLUTION

To express support for the public-private partnerships through which Louisiana's safety net hospitals are operated, and through which vital healthcare services are delivered throughout this state.

WHEREAS, a sudden reduction in federal funding for the Louisiana Medicaid program was included in a sweeping transportation bill passed by the United States Congress and signed into law on July 6, 2012, and resulted in a net decrease of over eight hundred fifty million dollars in the Medicaid budget of this state in state fiscal year 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this dramatic cut to Medicaid funding, the Department of Health and Hospitals (now named the Louisiana Department of Health) addressed the shortfall by eliminating funding for state hospitals operated by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU); and

WHEREAS, the state has developed public-private partnerships since 2012 for the delivery of health services at LSU hospital facilities which are now operated by private healthcare enterprises, with the terms and conditions for such service delivery set forth in cooperative endeavor agreements among the state and private providers; and

WHEREAS, a major aim of the public-private partnerships is to ensure multiple points of community access and the delivery of cost-effective medical care for all Louisiana citizens; and

WHEREAS, private providers that broaden access, choice, and cost-effective care in a community are the ideal partners for these former charity hospitals in their mission of serving the healthcare needs of the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, the availability of multiple healthcare providers in a community drives down healthcare costs, increases choices among patients for care, and improves the quality of care and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, in terms of fiscal and public health policy, it is in the best interest of this state to continue or initiate public-private hospital partnerships which enhance access to consumer-centered health care and cost-effective health services delivery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for the public-private partnerships through which Louisiana's safety net hospitals are operated, and through which vital healthcare services are delivered throughout this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby declare that the best interests of this state are served through partnerships for operation of Louisiana's safety net hospitals with partners that increase the number and availability of healthcare providers in a given community or market.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the commissioner of administration.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES