2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY REPRESENTATIVES BAGLEY, COX, CREWS, GLOVER, HORTON, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MCMAHEN, CHARLES OWEN, PRESSLY, SCHAMERHORN, AND SEABAUGH AND SENATORS BERNARD, MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS, AND TARVER

COMMENDATIONS: Commend Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport for its extraordinary response to the COVID-19 pandemic

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To commend the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport for its 3 extraordinary response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 4 WHEREAS, the role of an academic medical center is to provide medical education, 5 research, and clinical care that is delivered through cutting-edge technologies, novel 6 resources, and therapies that otherwise might not be available in the geographical area; and 7 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport 8 through its leaders, Chancellor G.E. Ghali, MD and Vice Chancellor for Research Chris 9 Kevil, PhD, as well as faculty members Dr. Steven Alexander, Dr. Connie Alford, Dr. 10 Michelle Arnold, Dr. Steve Bailey, Dr. Ricky Bass, Dr. Jason Bodily, Dr. Steven Conrad, 11 Dr. Angela Cornelius, Dr. Terry Davis, Dr. Ellen Friday, Dr. Robert Holladay, Dr. Stan 12 Ivanov, Dr. Jeremy Kamil, Dr. Wayne Orr, Dr. Martin Sapp, Dr. Keith Scott, Dr. Rona 13 Scott, Dr. Jennifer Singh, Dr. John Vanchiere, Dr. Robert Walter, Dr. Paul Weinberger, Dr. 14 Matthew Woolard, and Dr. Andrew Yurochko have contributed exceedingly to the state of 15 Louisiana's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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1	WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport		
2	was the first academic medical center in Louisiana to open an approved COVID-19 testing		
3	lab with highly reliable and robust testing capability that is certified by the Clinical		
4	Laboratory Improvement Amendments Program and approved by the Centers for Disease		
5	Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and		
6	WHEREAS, this emerging viral threat (EVT) laboratory is unique in that it is able		
7	to screen samples for virus mutations; and		
8	WHEREAS, the EVT laboratory was quickly expanded to include serology testing		
9	which is essential in determining asymptomatic individuals who had COVID-19 which		
10	creates a reliable pathway for resuming academic and professional endeavors; and		
11	WHEREAS, the serology testing allows for matching convalescent plasma with		
12	critically ill COVID-19 patients in multiple hospitals in north Louisiana; and		
13	WHEREAS, a Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport strike		
14	team composed of seven residents and one faculty leader provided two weeks of requested		
15	health care in New Orleans during the time the city was at the height of its COVID-19		
16	response creating tremendous strain on healthcare professionals; and		
17	WHEREAS, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport		
18	medical and allied health students graduated early which allowed them to join the workforce		
19	at a time when there was an increased need for medical professionals to address the		
20	pandemic response efforts; and		
21	WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport		
22	was the first location in Louisiana to receive approval to administer convalescent plasma		
23	therapy to critically ill patients as part of a clinical trial; and		
24	WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport		
25	was the first location in Louisiana and second in the United States to administer inhaled		
26	nitric oxide therapy to critically ill COVID-19 patients as part of an international clinical		

trial; and

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1	WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport
2	was the first location in Louisiana and the second in the United States to administer inhaled
3	nitric oxide therapy to mildly to moderately ill COVID-19 patients as part of an international
4	clinical trial, which only has six approved locations in the United States as of the date of
5	filing of this Resolution; and
6	WHEREAS, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport
7	expanded its community COVID-19 testing to nursing homes and first responders; and
8	WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport
9	leads the state of Louisiana in the number of contributions to the GISAID Initiative, a global
10	science initiative and primary source for genomic data of influenza viruses and the novel
11	coronavirus, and makes up the molecular epidemiology data set for Louisiana and tracks the
12	spread of COVID-19; and
13	WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences at Shreveport produced
14	3D-printed swabs to eliminate challenges of national shortages of this key element in
15	COVID-19 testing kits; and
16	WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport has
17	continued to add new clinical trials to strengthen available treatments to COVID-19 patients
18	while securing meaningful data about the novel coronavirus.
19	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20	commend the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport leadership,
21	faculty, and recent graduates for their significant contributions in addressing COVID-19
22	through provision of early, high-quality testing; securing required approvals to participate
23	in promising clinical trials that have saved lives and shortened the time individuals suffered
24	with COVID-19; enhancing availability of test kits throughout the state due to production
25	of 3D-printed swabs; providing physician support to their sister institution, Louisiana State
26	University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, during a time of great duress; and
27	contributing exponentially to the international genome sequencing database while securing
28	significant data which will contribute to understanding not only the current novel
29	coronavirus, but any future mutations positioning Louisiana to favorably respond to future
30	viral pandemics.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr.
- 2 G.E. Ghali, Chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at
- 3 Shreveport, and Dr. Chris Kevil, Vice Chancellor for Research at the Louisiana State
- 4 University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Commend LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport for its extraordinary response to the COVID-19 pandemic.