

1 St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes; and

2 WHEREAS, the GNOCHC waiver is more cost effective by prioritizing primary care
3 rather than expensive hospital care, through emphasis on primary care medical homes; and

4 WHEREAS, as a result of the GNOCHC waiver, the greater New Orleans region now
5 boasts a quality, affordable network of neighborhood based health centers offering primary
6 care and mental health to everyone irrespective of their ability to pay; and

7 WHEREAS, an external evaluation in 2010 by the Commonwealth Fund reported
8 that although the health centers funded by the GNOCHC waiver cared for people that were
9 on average lower income and suffering from a higher burden of disease than the average
10 American, the evaluation reported better access, satisfaction with health care, and less
11 indebtedness because of health care related expenses; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2010 the health center network funded by the GNOCHC waiver
13 received an award for quality by the National Committee on Quality Assurance; and

14 WHEREAS, financial responsibility assessments by the United States Department
15 of Health and Human Services, office of inspector general, have demonstrated a responsible
16 use of funding made available by the GNOCHC waiver; and

17 WHEREAS, absent an extension, the GNOCHC waiver will expire on December 31,
18 2013, leaving approximately sixty thousand individuals currently enrolled in GNOCHC
19 without coverage and access to comprehensive primary care and mental health services; and

20 WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has requested that the
21 Department of Health and Hospitals submit a request to extend the GNOCHC waiver no
22 later than June 30, 2013; and

23 WHEREAS, extension of the GNOCHC waiver would continue the expansion of
24 access to quality primary care, mental health, and other services through a collaborative
25 public-private partnership approach that promotes team-based and innovative health care
26 services.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28 authorize and direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to submit a request to the
29 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend the Section 1115a Medicaid
30 demonstration waiver (Project No. 11-W-00252/6) for the Greater New Orleans Community

1 Health Connection for a three year period commencing January 1, 2014, and does hereby
2 authorize and direct the governor and the secretary of the Department of Health and
3 Hospitals to identify a source or sources for the matching of non-federal funds required
4 under the extended GNOCHC waiver.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
6 governor and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

DIGEST

Heitmeier

SCR No. 108

Authorize and direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to submit a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend Louisiana's Section 1115a demonstration waiver (Project No. 11-W-00252/6) for the Greater New Orleans Community Health Connection and authorizes and directs the governor and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals to identify a source or sources for the matching of non-federal funds required under the extended waiver.