HLS 14RS-903 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

COMMENDATIONS: Commends CVS and local independent community pharmacies for their efforts towards reducing chronic illness associated with tobacco use

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To commend CVS Caremark and Louisiana independent community pharmacies for their
3	efforts towards reducing the rate of chronic illness associated with tobacco use by
4	making the decision not to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products in support of
5	the health and well-being of their customers.
6	WHEREAS, in 2012, more than forty-two million people in the United States, or
7	almost twenty percent of adults, were current smokers; and
8	WHEREAS, more than sixteen million people in the United States have at least one
9	serious illness caused by smoking; and
10	WHEREAS, smoking kills more than four hundred eighty thousand Americans each
11	year, representing more deaths from AIDS, alcohol, automobile accidents, murders, suicides,
12	drugs, and fires combined; and
13	WHEREAS, smoking in pregnancy accounts for an estimated twenty to thirty percent
14	of low-birth weight babies, up to fourteen percent of preterm deliveries, and ten percent of
15	all infant deaths; and
16	WHEREAS, each day in the United States, approximately four thousand adolescents
17	between the ages of twelve and seventeen try their first cigarette; and
18	WHEREAS, if current patterns of smoking behaviors continue, an estimated six
19	million four hundred thousand of today's children can be expected to die prematurely from
20	a smoking-related illness; and

1 WHEREAS, tobacco advertising plays an important role in encouraging young 2 people to begin a lifelong addiction to smoking before they are old enough to fully 3 understand its long-term health risk; and 4 WHEREAS, as small business entrepreneurships, independent community 5 pharmacies are dynamic, multidimensional healthcare providers who play a critical role in 6 Louisiana's healthcare delivery system; and 7 WHEREAS, with a strong foundation in its communities, independent community 8 pharmacies lead grass roots public health, civic, and volunteer initiatives and, as such, 9 represent a vital resource; and 10 WHEREAS, some Louisiana independent community pharmacies have made the 11 decision not to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products in support of the health and well-12 being of their customers; and 13 WHEREAS, CVS Caremark has announced that it will stop selling cigarettes and 14 other tobacco products at its more than seven thousand six hundred pharmacy stores across 15 the United States by October 1, 2014, making CVS Caremark the first national pharmacy 16 chain to take this step; and 17 WHEREAS, the decision of a pharmacy to stop selling tobacco products is consistent 18 with the positions taken by the American Medical Association, American Heart Association, 19 American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, and American Pharmacists 20 Association that have all publicly opposed tobacco sales in retail outlets with pharmacies. 21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 22 commend CVS Caremark and Louisiana independent community pharmacies for their efforts 23 towards reducing the rate of chronic illness associated with tobacco use by making the 24 decision not to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products in support of the health and well-25 being of their customers. 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted 27 to the president and chief executive officer of CVS Caremark and the chairman of the board 28 of directors of the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association.

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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)]

Hoffmann HCR No. 73

Commends CVS Caremark and La. independent community pharmacies for their efforts towards reducing the rate of chronic illness associated with tobacco use by making the decision not to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products.