

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
27 trial; and

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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Bagley

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