

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to support and invest in the National Cancer Institute Community Cancer Centers Program.

WHEREAS, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) began in 2007 to provide community cancer centers and their patients across the United States better access to the most advanced cancer research; and

WHEREAS, NCI estimates that the vast majority of cancer patients (about 85 percent) are treated at community hospitals in or near the communities in which they live and only about 15 percent of U.S. cancer patients are diagnosed and treated at the nation's major academic-based cancer centers; and

WHEREAS, many patients choose community hospitals because they are close to family, friends, and jobs, whereas treatment at the major cancer centers may require long commutes or extended stays away from home; and

WHEREAS, the NCCCP extends NCI programs into local communities, giving patients easier access to state-of-the-art cancer care and clinical trial opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program has formed a national network of community cancer centers to expand cancer research and deliver the most advanced cancer care to more Americans in the communities where they live; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Program of Our Lady of the Lake and Mary Bird Perkins was one of only 16 community cancer programs in the country selected to participate in the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program because of its proven medical leadership, phenomenal community outreach and experience in conducting clinical trials; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Program of Our Lady of the Lake and Mary Bird Perkins was the only cancer program in Louisiana, and the only program in the Gulf South, selected for the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program; and

WHEREAS, the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program is designed to create a community-based cancer center network to support basic, clinical and population-based research initiatives, addressing the full cancer care continuum from prevention, screening,

diagnosis, treatment and survivorship through end-of-life care; and

WHEREAS, the seven major focus areas of the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program are to reduce cancer healthcare disparities, improve quality of care, increase participation in clinical trials, enhance cancer survivorship and palliative care services, participate in biospecimen research initiatives to support personalized medicine, expand use of electronic health records and connect to cancer research data network and enhance cancer advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the sixteen initial pilot hospitals have made considerable progress toward achieving the major program goals and are defining for NCI what it takes to build a national network of community hospitals that are fully engaged in cancer research and offer the latest evidence-based, multidisciplinary care to diverse populations in their home communities; and

WHEREAS, funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helped the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program expand from its original pilot network of sixteen to thirty hospitals in twenty-two states.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to continue to support and invest in the National Cancer Institute Community Cancer Centers Program, a vital and innovative program that is transforming the way cancer care is delivered across the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES