

1 Introduced March 1, 2011, by Councilman
2 Cusimano, seconded by Councilwoman
3 Harbison

4 **RESOLUTION R11-01**

5
6 A resolution urging the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature to mitigate
7 Medicaid cuts by considering other public policy alternatives, to rebalance the Medicaid
8 reimbursement rates, and to eliminate payment discrepancies between providers located
9 in St. Tammany Parish and other parishes.

10 WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the Slidell City Council the
11 discrepancies in Medicaid reimbursement rates between St. Tammany Parish hospitals
12 and other Louisiana Parish hospitals; and

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14 WHEREAS, healthcare providers are a major economic influence within St.
15 Tammany Parish; and

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17 WHEREAS, healthcare providers impact overall economic activity, including
18 business transactions, household earnings, jobs and state and local tax collections; and

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20 WHEREAS, hospitals in Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
21 Administrative Region 9, including St. Tammany Parish, have annual expenditures of \$632
22 million; and

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24 WHEREAS, hospitals in Region 9 support \$3.2 billion in annual business
25 sales; and

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27 WHEREAS, hospitals in Region 9 employ more than 31,937 people; and

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29 WHEREAS, Medicaid rates reimburse healthcare providers less than the
30 costs of providing care and, today, reimburse hospitals less than in 1995; and

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32 WHEREAS, the inadequacy of government reimbursement for healthcare
33 services adversely impacts our local economy as hospitals freeze or reduce capital
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4 purchases, consider hiring freezes, halt construction or equipment purchases and consider
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6 eliminating vacant positions; and

7 WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish has supported Governor Jindal as a
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9 Member of Congress and as Governor and requests he take into consideration the impact
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11 of these policies on one of the fastest growing parishes in Louisiana and a parish that is
12
13 key to ongoing and future economic growth of businesses along the nationally popular I-
14 10/I-12 corridor.

15 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Slidell City Council hereby
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17 expresses its opposition to Medicaid cuts proposed as emergency rules published
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19 December 1, 2010 by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Governor and the Louisiana
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22 Legislature to mitigate Medicaid cuts by considering the other public policy alternatives
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24 such as using the extended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) this state
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26 fiscal year to maximize enhanced federal matching funds, accelerate the use of financial
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28 mechanisms such as the Upper Payment Limit programs and Certified Public
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30 Expenditures, to rebalance the Medicaid reimbursements rates to eliminate payment
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32 discrepancies between providers and explore alternative funding sources currently being
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34 utilized and expanded in other states.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we urge the Governor and the Legislature to
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37 amend current state laws which disproportionately expose healthcare providers to budget
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39 cuts by considering spreading reductions across a larger portion of the state general fund
such as statutory dedicated and agency generated funds, non-discretionary Portions of the

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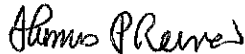
4 State General Fund, the "All Other" category of the discretionary general fund budget and
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6 non-constitutionally protected, non-discretionary budget items.

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8 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Slidell City Council, is in support of
9 growth in healthcare and economic development of St. Tammany Parish.

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11 **ADOPTED** this 1st day of March, 2011.

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14 Landon Cusimano
15 President of the Council
16 Councilman-at-Large

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19 Thomas P. Reeves
20 Council Administrator
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