



WHEREAS, as the voice of business, the St. Tammany West Chamber represents 1,058 businesses and their nearly 30,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, the payroll of the healthcare sector in Louisiana is larger than the payroll of any other industrial classification in the state; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, hospitals in Region 9 create \$1.3 billion in household earnings within the region; and

WHEREAS, hospitals in Region 9 employ more than 31,837 people; and

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce hereby expresses its opposition to Medicaid cuts proposed as emergency rules published December 1, 2010 by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we urge the Louisiana Legislature to reject the emergency rules or override gubernatorial actions executing such cuts.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we urge Governor Bobby Jindal to not balance the state budget on the backs of healthcare providers by further cutting Medicaid rates.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we urge the governor and legislature to mitigate Medicaid cuts by considering other public policy alternatives such as using the extended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) this state fiscal year to maximize enhanced federal matching funds, accelerate the use of financial mechanisms such as the Upper Payment Limit program and Certified Public Expenditures and explore alternative funding sources currently being utilized and expanded in other states.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we urge the governor and legislature to amend current state laws which disproportionately expose healthcare providers to budget 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 State General Fund, the "All Other" category of the discretionary general fund budget and non-constitutionally protected, non-discretionary budget items.



Lisa Blossman
2011 Board of Directors Chairman



Lacey Toledano
President & CEO

Adopted Wednesday, January 5, 2011