



# NEWS RELEASE

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## LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**“...this is how government is supposed to work to solve big problems.”**

**BATON ROUGE** – According to Speaker Chuck Kleckley, House Bills 532 and 533, which passed the Senate today, will provide the citizens of Louisiana with a means to work together, “to create a special fund to allow Louisiana to maintain healthcare for its citizens. It provides predictability in revenues and more responsible planning for healthcare.”

“The idea behind these bills is to work together to solve a big problem – providing sustainable, long-term funding for healthcare for the citizens of Louisiana that doesn’t transfer costs to patients or businesses,” Kleckley said, “More importantly – the constitutional amendments these bills propose are a contract with the people of Louisiana that will go before the voters.”

The Louisiana Hospital Association today praised the work of the bills’ co-authors, Kleckley and Speaker Pro Tempore Walt Leger, D-New Orleans, and the legislators who passed them.

Sen. Sherri Smith Buffington, R-Keithville, who sponsored the bills in the Senate, said, “This offers voters the opportunity to stabilize funding for our community hospitals and our nursing home facilities. The proposed changes in our state constitution are an effort to keep our hospitals open and to make sure vital health care services are available to our children and families. This is not about numbers. It is about the lives of people.”

“This is a good day for our state,” Kleckley said, “I’m proud the citizens of Louisiana will have an opportunity to strengthen the healthcare our state provides.”

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