



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 9, 2010

Mr. Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 1493 by Representative Barrow

Dear Mr. Speer:

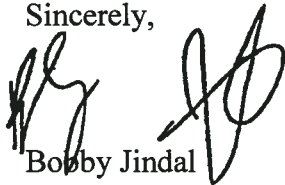
I agree with the premise of House Bill No. 1493 that the Legislature should be fully informed throughout the transfer of certain medical education and inpatient hospital services from Earl K. Long Medical Center to Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.

However, I am concerned that this legislation will result in unnecessary hurdles and potential delays as the State moves to create a public-private partnership that will promote access and quality healthcare for patients in the greater Baton Rouge area. This process will result in a free-standing Urgent Care Clinic in north Baton Rouge, the first Level 1 trauma unit in the region, and a new medical education building to train and retain more Louisiana doctors.

I will continue to encourage LSU to work with the local delegation to maintain an open line of communication with the Legislature and the Baton Rouge community. LSU and Our Lady of the Lake have already negotiated a detailed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement at the request of the Legislature in 2009; they have sought and received the approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; and the Legislature has subsequently approved the funding to move this project forward. I see no reason to require additional reporting that could result in delays for this vital undertaking.

Therefore, I have vetoed House Bill No. 1493 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal
Governor