

House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2233L.011

1 **Whereas**, while SSM DePaul Health Center received one million dollars in state
2 funding to continue trauma services in the St. Louis area through June 30, 2003, the trauma
3 center will be forced to close this summer if state funding is not included in the state budget for
4 fiscal year 2004; and
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6 **Whereas**, the trauma center treats approximately 1,000 patients a year and is the
7 only trauma center in the North County area; and
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9 **Whereas**, with the next closest trauma centers being St. John's Mercy Medical
10 Center in Creve Coeur and SSM St. Joseph Health Center in St. Charles, the closing of SSM
11 DePaul Health Center would require those facilities to handle the additional traumas; and
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13 **Whereas**, SSM St. Joseph Health Center is already operating at capacity and would
14 not be able to handle any additional traumas; and
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16 **Whereas**, while trauma is a very expensive medical service to maintain, it is an
17 important medical service for a community to maintain because in trauma cases minutes or even
18 seconds can be the difference between life and death; and
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20 **Whereas**, in April, 2003, the St. Louis Clergy Coalition delivered a petition signed
21 by more than 2,000 area residents to administrators at DePaul's trauma center which expressed
22 the need for local legislators to find short-term funding for the trauma center; and
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24 **Whereas**, since the petition was delivered, an additional 2,000 signatures have
25 been obtained which will also be sent to local legislators; and

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27 **Whereas**, while these efforts may provide a short-term solution, the residents of
28 North County need and deserve to have vital trauma services provided in the North County area
29 without the constant fear that they will lose those services at any moment due to lack of adequate
30 funding:

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32 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
33 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
34 concurring therein, hereby authorize Governor Bob Holden to provide a permanent source of
35 funding for the SSM DePaul Health Center through the utilization of funds currently dedicated
36 to homeland security so that the residents of North County will continue to have vital, life-saving
37 medical services provided at the trauma center; and

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39 **Be it further resolved** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
40 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.