



LSU

HEALTH CARE SERVICES DIVISION
LOUISIANA'S HEALTH SYSTEM

LSU Health Care Services Division statement concerning the Rally to Save Charity Hospital

For Immediate Release

Baton Rouge, LA (Saturday, March 25, 2006) – The doctors and staff at LSU Health Care Services Division wholeheartedly agree with those participating in the rally -- providing health care to the residents of New Orleans must be our top priority.

A nationally recognized engineering firm has declared Charity Hospital unsalvageable and an inappropriate environment for providing top-notch health care.

We will not bring our health care services back to facilities that are not safe enough to provide the best health care possible to the people of New Orleans.

While we appreciate the concern of those who share our dedication to caring for the uninsured and to delivering medical training at our hospitals, we also must consider whether it is wise to pour millions of precious tax dollars into repairing facilities that medical accrediting agencies have long recommended be replaced.

Despite these challenges, we see a bright future. LSU is working with the US Department of Veterans Affairs to build a new, university-style teaching and research hospital, and a series of community clinics to better serve all residents of New Orleans. Our temporary health center at 1400 Poydras street is seeing upwards of 300 patients a day. In April, LSU will re-establish trauma services at Elmwood, and later this year we plan to partially re-open University Hospital for trauma and acute care patients.

We believe the mission of Charity Hospital is not about a building, but rather it's about providing the best health care possible to the people of New Orleans.

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