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Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

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August 20, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of the State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

RE: Report on Renovation of the Existing Charity Hospital Site in New Orleans

Dear Governor Jindal:

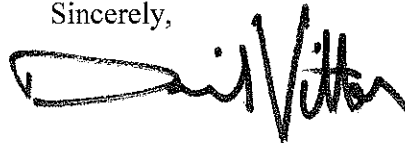
I write to bring your attention to the findings of the report released today by the Foundation for a Historical Louisiana on the renovation of the existing Charity Hospital site in New Orleans, and to urge your full consideration of this option.

As you know, the Louisiana Legislature commissioned this report to examine the structural feasibility of the existing Charity Hospital building and site. This study shows that the existing site is absolutely usable and that completely renovating this existing site, making it a completely modern, state-of-the-art facility, would cost hundreds of millions of dollars less than the current \$1.2 billion LSU proposal. Perhaps most importantly, this option would save a very large amount of time and lead to the restoration of a major hospital in downtown New Orleans much more quickly. Additionally, renovation of the existing Charity building would still allow for collaborative work with the new VA hospital in New Orleans.

I strongly urge you to examine the findings of this report and to consider renovating the existing Charity site as a more cost-effective and quicker alternative to the current LSU proposal. Again, this would save hundreds of millions of Louisiana taxpayer dollars and would also allow for the quicker establishment of a medical facility to serve patients in the Greater New Orleans area. Also, using the existing site would not take away funding from the rest of the state for decades to come, as I believe the current LSU proposal would.

I appreciate your consideration of this issue, and thank you for all your work and reforms for Louisiana.

Sincerely,



David Vitter
United States Senate

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