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LPCA Statement on Louisiana's 2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Today, Louisiana's lawmakers are returning to Baton Rouge for the start of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session. As our state continues to face a series of crises and recovery efforts on a number of fronts, we are thankful for the unwavering determination of our lawmakers to take action and work to assist our communities in need.

With 70 different items included in the call for a special session, House Speaker Clay Schexnayder and Senate President Page Cortez have laid out an ambitious goal to weigh in on several important issues in only a month's time. Some of the most important items include: replenishing Louisiana's Unemployment Trust Fund, addressing COVID-19 recovery efforts, and supporting communities impacted by Hurricane Laura. We applaud our lawmakers for taking a proactive approach to addressing these needs.

Aside from these important issues, some lawmakers have voiced their intention to weigh in on the COVID-19 mitigation measures pushed by Gov. John Bel Edwards, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the White House Coronavirus Task Force. **As Louisiana's 39 Community Health Center organizations collectively operating 300 individual clinics and serving over 465,000 patients, we humbly urge our lawmakers to proceed carefully when considering changes to the Governor's Executive Orders.**

Nothing about COVID-19 has been easy. Thousands of Louisianans have fallen ill and died, thousands more have lost their jobs or businesses, and we're still largely unable to gather with our family members, friends, and co-workers. Thanks to the leadership of Governor John Bel Edwards, our public health leaders, and healthcare workers, the situation in Louisiana is slowly improving. Our public officials have done the best they can to make decisions based on scientific and data-driven evidence. The vast majority of Louisianans are adhering to their guidance. We urge our Louisiana lawmakers to support these mitigation measures and bolster the efforts of our public health officials – especially as we approach the Fall flu season.

We have sacrificed too much and have worked too hard to make future missteps in our fight against COVID-19. Just like our lawmakers, our highest priority lies with the health and safety of Louisianans – especially the vulnerable patients in our care.

About the Louisiana Primary Care Association

The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) represents 39 federally funded, private, non-profit and public Community Health Centers (and 3 Look-Alikes) across Louisiana that serve over 465,000 patients annually. LPCA promotes community-based health services through advocacy, education, and collaboration with community partners. Our goal is to ensure that every Louisianan has access to affordable, quality, primary care services. For more information, visit www.LPCA.net.