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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2010

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BLUEPRINT SUPPORTS LSU/OLOL HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP

BATON ROUGE, La. — Testifying before the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget today, Blueprint Louisiana Board of Trustees member Sean Reilly highlighted the organization’s support for the proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between LSU, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Division of Administration.

“This is a groundbreaking agreement that will fundamentally change for the better health care delivery and graduate medical education in Louisiana, especially in the greater Baton Rouge region,” said Reilly, Chief Operating Officer and President of Baton Rouge-based Lamar Advertising Company’s Outdoor Division. “This new model will provide modern health care facilities and improved access to a comprehensive range of care — from primary and preventative care to surgical specialties. It’s a bold reach for excellence in health care delivery, and it deserves the support of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.”

Health care reform has widely been regarded as the most challenging component of the Blueprint Agenda. Louisiana has historically been rated among the least healthy states in America, and the state has consistently had a large uninsured population. What’s more, the state’s unique health care model funds 10 state-run hospitals that are primarily responsible for delivering health care to the uninsured while operating alongside a system for patients with private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid.

Throughout its existence, Blueprint has encouraged the state to embark on a path toward a single, competitive health care system that is more efficient, cost-effective and better meets the needs of all patients. Responsibility for providing care to the uninsured should be shared by the private and public sectors, with an emphasis on local governance, allowing LSU to focus on world-class medical education and research.

Established in 2006, Blueprint Louisiana is a citizen-driven effort to identify and implement essential changes to fundamentally improve Louisiana. The group’s original vision for a better Louisiana focused on major governmental reforms in the areas of ethics, education, workforce development, health care, transportation and coastal restoration and hurricane protection. In 2009, it added a “new economy” component to its reform agenda. Directed by a 47-member Board of Trustees, the nonpartisan effort is led and supported by community and business leaders from across the state.

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