

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 9.16.11

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SENATOR MORRELL APPLAUDS DECISION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET APPROVES PLAN FOR HOSPITAL

District 3 State Senator Jean-Paul "J.P." Morrell (D- New Orleans) applauds members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for the approval of a business plan for the new University Medical Center (UMC) in New Orleans. Since the devastation of old Charity Hospital by Hurricane Katrina six years ago, there has been an on-going debate on how to best meet the health-care needs of the area and the state. Today, the committee cleared the way for the new UMC to begin construction.

"Today's vote marks the end of a four year legislative battle over the fate of UMC," Sen. Morrell said. "In this environment, in this economy, today marks the State's commitment to deliver on two things desperately needed in the Greater New Orleans Area, jobs and healthcare."

The \$1.1 billion, 424-bed research and teaching hospital is scheduled to open in 2015 and expected to bring 5,500 permanent jobs to the area in the first five years of operation. Sen. Morrell says that the business plan is more than just a plan for a new hospital, it's also a plan for jobs, not just for Orleans Parish, but for the entire Greater New Orleans Area.

"We aren't waiting on the Federal government to ride to our rescue when it comes to job creation in our region," said Sen. Morrell. "We're moving on a project with billions of dollars of direct economic impact that will create thousands of new jobs, both directly and indirectly."

The business plan commissioned by the University Medical Center Management Corporation Board prepared by Verité Healthcare Consulting, LLC states that the 5,500 direct jobs will lead to nearly 9,700 total jobs and annual personal earnings totaling over \$350 million.

"St. Bernard, Jefferson and Orleans, get ready. Jobs are coming," said Sen. Morrell.

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