



January 26, 2007

**HAND DELIVERED**

Honorable Charles C. Foti, Jr.  
Attorney General  
P.O. Box 94005  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Request for an Attorney General Opinion on the Action of the  
Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget

Dear General Foti:

On Friday, January 19, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget amended the Louisiana Recovery Authority's Action Plan regarding Charity Hospital.

The Recovery Authority had asked the budget panel to sign off on a plan that gave LSU \$74 million to buy land and hire architects to design the hospital.

The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget amended the plan to give LSU a full \$300 million down payment on a new teaching hospital in downtown New Orleans.

It is our understanding that the law creating the Recovery Authority gives the Legislature the right to "review and approve" the Action Plan, but does not give lawmakers the power to make changes to those plans. Therefore, we are asking for an opinion from you to clarify this issue.

If the Action Plan can be amended by one member of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, when is it appropriate for other members of the Legislature who do not serve on the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget to offer amendments to the plan? It appears to us that there is no process for non-JLCB members to amend the plan. This creates a different class of legislators and, therefore, is unconstitutional. We are asking for your opinion on this matter as well.

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Time is of the essence. We will be requested to vote on this Action Plan amendment soon. Thank you for all of your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call either of us.

Sincerely,

Tom Schedler, Chairman  
Senate Republican Delegation

Jim Tucker, Chairman  
House Republican Delegation