FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 4.5.18
CONTACT: SENATOR MILKOVICH
PHONE: 318.676.7877

SENATOR MILKOVICH’S SB 286, PHYSICIANS' BILL OF RIGHTS
APPROVED BY SENATE COMMITTEE, MOVES TO FULL SENATE FOR DEBATE

Senate Bill 286, authored by District 38 State Senator John Milkovich, Keithville, received approval from the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare. SB 286 enacts the Physician’s Bill of Rights to provide doctors protection against improper investigations and ensure due process in disciplinary proceedings.

"Physicians are among the most thoroughly educated, highly skilled, and sacrificially selfless professionals in the world,” states Senator Milkovich. “Our doctors work long hours, grapple with the endlessly shifting regulations imposed by the government, and sometimes even fight to get paid for their work. We owe them a debt of gratitude -- not a deluge of grief.”

Senator Milkovich continues, “I want to thank Chairman Mills and Senators Barrow, Boudreaux, Chabert, Luneau and Price, along with Jennifer Marusak of the Louisiana State Medical Society, for their support on this issue. This is a great day for Louisiana physicians. We are hopeful that the passage of Senate Bill 286 ends the seemingly abusive and unjust acts that have been plaguing our doctors.”

SB 286 protects physicians in a myriad of ways, including mandating that a physician must receive notice of a complaint within 10 days of receipt by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME). The notice must include the identity of the person making the complaint and a detailed description of the substance of the allegation. The measure also imposes time constraints on hearings, dismissals, and investigations as well as emphasizes other constitutional protections, such as the right to an attorney, to ensure that physicians are given proper due process.

“The goal of board proceedings for physicians should be impartiality, fairness and integrity – not what some consider to be intimidation, falsification, and inequity. This measure aims to level the playing field, unstack the deck and render the Board's adjudication of doctors more transparent. Everyone deserves due process, and that includes doctors.”

Senate Bill 286 now moves to the full Senate for approval. To learn more about this bill and Senator Milkovich’s other bills, visit www.legis.la.gov.

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