WHEREAS the Faculty Senate considers sick leave to be a crucial employee benefit for individuals working in higher education, and

WHEREAS since 1975 state law has mandated that sick leave and annual leave benefits be provided to higher education faculty members, and

WHEREAS current state law explicitly states that unused sick leave and annual leave can be accrued without limitation, and

WHEREAS faculty members accepted their positions at Southeastern Louisiana University with the expectation of receiving sick leave and annual leave benefits according to current state law, and

WHEREAS House Bill 179 proposes an "alternative" leave program ("paid time off" and “extended sick leave”), which would significantly reduce benefits provided to thousands of public higher education faculty in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS House Bill 179 would undermine Southeastern's ability to recruit, hire, and retain qualified faculty:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Southeastern Louisiana University strongly opposes the proposed House Bill 179 and urges legislators to vote against it; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate authorize the President of the Faculty Senate to write letters and/or send e-mail messages to the appropriate legislators, on behalf of the Faculty Senate, to convey the above sentiments to such legislators.

[Adopted by the Faculty Senate on 2008 May 7]