

84-26

R E S O L U T I O N

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, has been informed that the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services has recommended that the Northeast Florida State Hospital located in Baker County, Florida, be closed, the projected date of closing being at the present time uncertain; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature in its session just last past approved funds for a study to determine the feasibility of the recommendation of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Florida State Hospital located in Baker County, Florida serves 28 of Florida's 67 counties, and the Children and Adolescent Units serve 40 of Florida's 67 counties; and

WHEREAS, the service of the said Northeast Florida State Hospital to these counties is well established, efficient and is carrying out the purpose for which said hospital was created; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the said Northeast Florida State Hospital would disrupt and impede the medical services which are now being rendered to the patients confined to said hospital and which are being currently sent by the above mentioned counties to said hospital; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the Northeast Florida State Hospital would have a profound and devastating economic impact upon Baker County and also upon surrounding counties in which many of the employees of the Northeast Florida State Hospital reside; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Florida State Hospital was opened in August of 1959, and over the years has consistently been expanded by the Legislature of the State of Florida to provide care and housing for patients placed therein, and the State of Florida has invested a significant sum of the taxpayers money for the construction and operation of said hospital which would in effect be wasted if said hospital were closed; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Florida State Hospital in Baker County employs almost 700 people who reside in Baker County; and

WHEREAS, the expenditures made by the Northeast Florida State Hospital's budget director each year, exclusive of salaries, have a significant impact upon businesses in Baker County and businesses located in surrounding counties; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Florida State Hospital renders invaluable service to the University of Florida through its School of Medicine for the training of its interns and residents; and

WHEREAS, Baker County, being a rural North Florida County, has in planning its growth and development relied heavily upon the past assurances that the Northeast Florida State Hospital would remain open and thereby continue to be one of the major sources of employment for the residents and citizens of Baker County; and

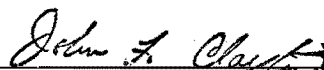
WHEREAS, it appears to the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that the Legislature of the State of Florida could more efficiently utilize the revenue generated by the taxpayers of the State of Florida by refusing to close the Northeast Florida State Hospital so that the same might continue to render its invaluable service to all of the citizens and families of the State of Florida who have relatives and friends in need of the treatment which is offered by the Northeast Florida State Hospital;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners in Regular Session duly assembled this 26th day of June, 1984, that the Board of County Commissioners does hereby adamantly oppose any and all efforts to close the Northeast Florida State Hospital, and hereby calls upon the Legislators of the State of Florida, the Governor, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, the 28 counties served by said Northeast Florida State Hospital, the citizens of Baker County, the citizens of the other 27 counties served by the said Northeast Florida State Hospital, and all citizens of the State of Florida who benefit from the existence of the Northeast Florida State Hospital, to take all action which may be necessary and appropriate to see that the Northeast Florida State Hospital remains open so that it can continue its services to the people of the State of Florida; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Circuit Court, as Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, send a certified copy of this Resolution to each Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners representing the 27 other counties served by the Northeast Florida State Hospital, to each of the Legislators representing not only Nassau County in the Florida State Legislature, but to each of the Legislators of the 27 other counties served by the Northeast Florida State Hospital, to the Governor of the State of Florida, to the President of the University of Florida, and to the Director of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services of the State of Florida immediately.

DONE AND ADOPTED this 26th day of June, 1984, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



John F. Claxton
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:



Ex - Officio Clerk