

Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY REPRESENTATIVE WINSTON AND SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express and declare the support of the Legislature of Louisiana of efforts to enhance public awareness of the tragic social problem of child abuse and neglect and its corresponding relationship to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency.

WHEREAS, there are over three million reports of suspected child abuse and neglect each year in the United States, with one child becoming a victim of abuse every six minutes; and

WHEREAS, more than five hundred thousand children in the United States have been placed in foster homes and institutions because they are not safe with their families; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana alone, nearly fourteen thousand children become victims of abuse and neglect each year, and nearly five thousand children in the state have been placed in foster homes and institutions in an effort to ensure their safety; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, a child in Louisiana died every eight days as a result of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are not limited only to certain social or economic groups, but occur across all social, economic, cultural, and age groups; and

WHEREAS, the month of April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention month to focus public awareness on this devastating problem and the social and economic costs it demands from each community and from society as a whole.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its support of efforts to enhance public awareness of acts of child abuse and neglect that endanger the lives of the children of this state and does hereby recognize and reaffirm

its commitment to continuing those laws that protect children and that guarantee a child's ability to live free from abuse and neglect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each community organization, state and local official charged with the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and volunteer organization throughout the state should take appropriate action to prevent children from becoming or remaining victims of abuse and neglect, including:

(1) Mobilizing and marshaling resources to maximize the impact on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

(2) Providing state and local officials with increased flexibility to use state law enforcement resources in the fight to prevent child abuse and neglect when they deem such resources necessary and appropriate.

(3) Coordinating the efforts of child protective services agencies, law enforcement agencies, and the judicial system to the maximum extent possible to prevent child abuse and neglect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend community organizations, state and local officials involved in the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and volunteers throughout the state for their efforts on behalf of the victims of child abuse and neglect, does express heartfelt gratitude to the citizens of Louisiana who have committed their time and resources to keeping children safe, and does encourage all individuals to take action in their own communities to make them safe havens where children can grow and thrive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the CEO of Child Advocacy Services in Hammond, Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE