

2017 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR MORRISH

SENATE. Designates Tuesday, May 2, 2017, as Teacher Appreciation Day.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate Tuesday, May 2, 2017, as "Teacher Appreciation Day" at the state capitol.

3 WHEREAS, public school teachers, nonpublic school teachers, and parents who  
4 serve as home study teachers serve the needs of nearly nine hundred thousand Louisiana  
5 children from birth to twelfth grade; and

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana teachers serve students in diverse settings including  
7 prekindergarten programs, traditional and charter public schools, nonpublic schools,  
8 parochial schools, Montessori schools, virtual schools, home schools, and early learning  
9 centers; and

10 WHEREAS, the efforts of over forty-seven thousand Louisiana public school  
11 teachers have resulted in tremendous gains for Louisiana students, which for the 2015-2016  
12 school year included fourth grade students achieving the highest growth among all states on  
13 the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading test and the second  
14 highest growth in math, an increase in the ACT average composite score for the third year  
15 in a row to 19.5, a record twenty-five thousand one hundred forty-four high school seniors  
16 earning a college-entrance score which resulted in an increase of six thousand eight hundred  
17 thirty-seven students since 2012, and Louisiana's high school graduation rate in 2015 was  
18 at an all-time high of 77.5%; and

1           WHEREAS, additionally, Louisiana's class of 2015 Advanced Placement results  
2 showed greater annual improvement than any state other than Massachusetts; and

3           WHEREAS, teachers are not only expected to be experts in their content and  
4 pedagogical approaches, but also in the individual interests, strengths, and needs of their  
5 students and communities, often teaching multiple siblings, relatives, and generations of  
6 students during their careers; and

7           WHEREAS, teachers' responsibilities can extend far beyond those listed in their job  
8 descriptions, and their time commitment can extend far beyond the daily bell-to-bell; it is  
9 not uncommon for teachers to make extra time for parents before the school day starts,  
10 squeeze in tutoring during the few free minutes of the school day, run clubs or coach sports  
11 after school, chaperone, supervise, or cheer on students during weekends, and instruct  
12 students who need extra help over the summer; and

13           WHEREAS, teachers often reach beyond their students to ensure that parents,  
14 grandparents, and extended families, who may have struggled in school themselves, receive  
15 the knowledge and resources they desire to help their children in any way they can; and

16           WHEREAS, while society holds teachers to the highest professional standards,  
17 expecting them to serve as model citizens by demonstrating patience, empathy, and fairness  
18 always, many teachers surpass our expectations by choosing to serve as mentors, counselors,  
19 and even parents when students lack the needed and deserved support; and

20           WHEREAS, countless Louisiana citizens attribute their professional success and  
21 personal happiness to a teacher who chose to care.

22           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
23 does hereby commend the dedicated work and contributions of all teachers across the state  
24 of Louisiana; does hereby extend enduring appreciation and gratitude for their role in  
25 shaping the intellect and character of our next generation; and does hereby designate  
26 Tuesday, May 2, 2017, as Teacher Appreciation Day at the state capitol.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

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