

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Melinda Sothern, the Scientists for Translational Research in Youth research group, and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, School of Public Health for outreach, education, and research related to fighting obesity in adolescent, infant, and adult populations throughout Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, School of Public Health, established in 2003, provides a multitude of public health-related services to the population of Louisiana, including education, community outreach, collaboration, and research; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melinda Sothern, professor and Jim Finks Endowed Chair in Health Promotion at the LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, School of Public Health has devoted the last three decades of her professional career to advancing research into the causes, patterns, and behaviors associated with obesity, particularly childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana currently ranks fourth in highest prevalence of childhood obesity and sixth in prevalence of adult obesity; obesity is considered a chronic disease that is associated with reduced duration and quality of life, poor mental health, increased healthcare costs, loss of productivity, and increased risk for several leading causes of death, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and some types of cancer; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sothern, the Scientists for Translational Research in Youth (STORY) research group, and the School of Public Health work collaboratively on multiple programs that help to better understand the social determinates of obesity while also providing outreach activities to help reduce the obesity rate throughout Louisiana; these programs, studies, and outreach activities include the Healthy Together Family Nutrition and Exercise Program, Molecular and Social Determinants of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders in Developing Youth, and the Handbook of Pediatric Obesity: Clinical Management; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sothern's activities have had direct results in improving the health of Louisiana's population through nutrition education and counseling, family cooking classes and instruction, exercise and fitness classes sponsored by LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, and a greater understanding of the causes and risk elements associated with obesity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Melinda Sothern, the STORY research group, and the LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, School of Public Health for outreach, education, and research related to fighting obesity in adolescent, infant, and adult populations throughout Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Larry Hollier, chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES