

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATORS MILLS, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Nurse-Family Partnership, begun in 1999, on their twentieth anniversary, noting that Louisiana was one of the first states to begin this outreach program, which has proven to be very successful.

WHEREAS, the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program is operated through local partners in forty-one states with proven outcomes in helping first-time, low-income mothers and their babies improve pregnancy and birth outcomes, child development and welfare, and family economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the self-sufficiency aspect of the program is accomplished by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, and providing guidance on how to attain that goal; and

WHEREAS, through the NFP program, specially educated registered nurses visit women in their homes regularly, during what is considered the key "window of opportunity" of a woman's first pregnancy and continuing up until the child's second birthday, to impact the baby's critical "first one thousand days of life" development; and

WHEREAS, NFP has produced consistent evidence that it accomplishes the following goals: improvement of prenatal health; improved outcomes in subsequent pregnancies and births; an increase in the intervals between the first and second pregnancies; increased maternal employment; reduction in women's use of welfare, reduction in children's mental health problems; an increase in children's school readiness and academic achievement; and reduction in costs to government and society; and

WHEREAS, as a two-generational program, NFP involves both the parents and the child, and it has the advantage of having been operating for over twenty years, providing substantial amounts of information for many disciplines of research; and

WHEREAS, economic research focusing on the NFP program has shown that the societal benefit with higher-risk families is nearly six dollars saved for every one dollar invested, with most of the savings accruing to government, in lower costs in governmental services needed, and in programs intended to assist those living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, leadership of NFP chose to offer the program for public investment only after they had evidence of enduring program impact and cost-savings in the health and lives of first-time mothers and their children, and that the impact from at least two randomized and controlled trials' evidence of enduring program impact and cost-savings, and confidence that the essential elements of the program could be reliably reproduced; and

WHEREAS, data from the fifteen year follow-up study to the NFP trial in Elmira, New York, evidenced positive effects for nurse-visited families continuing more than twelve years after the visits ended, and the following outcomes have been observed among participants in at least one of the three randomized and controlled trials that documented a forty-eight percent reduction in reported cases of child abuse and neglect, a nearly sixty percent reduction in arrests among children, and seventy-two percent fewer convictions of mothers; and

WHEREAS, the NFP program has served more than twenty thousand vulnerable Louisiana families since 1999, driven by the mission of a future where all children are healthy, families thrive, communities prosper, and the cycle of poverty is broken, an ambitious, but seemingly unattainable task accomplished.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Nurse-Family Partnership, begun in 1999, on their twentieth anniversary, noting that Louisiana was one of the first states to begin this outreach program which has proven to be very successful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Nurse-Family Partnership.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE