

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Nurse-Family Partnership in Louisiana on its twentieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Nurse-Family Partnership, or NFP, is a program that operates with the assistance of local partners in forty-one states, including Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the NFP has amassed an impressive record in helping first-time, low-income mothers and their babies improve pregnancy and birth outcomes, as well as in outcomes pertaining to child development, welfare, and familial economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, through this program, specially educated registered nurses visit women regularly in their homes during their first pregnancy, and the process continues until the child's second birthday, thus improving the baby's development during the pivotal first one thousand days of life; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of NFP chose to offer the program for public investment only after evidence of enduring impact and cost savings had been produced and after they had confidence that the essential elements of the program could be reliably reproduced; and

WHEREAS, all in all, studies suggest that the NFP improves prenatal health; reduces childhood injuries; reduces subsequent pregnancy and birth rates; increases the intervals between first and second pregnancies and births; increases maternal employment; reduces women's use of welfare programs; improves children's mental health; increases children's school readiness and academic achievement; and reduces costs to government and society; and

WHEREAS, similarly, economic studies of NFP suggest that for higher-risk families the societal benefit is \$5.70 for every \$1.00 invested, with the bulk of that savings accruing to government; and

WHEREAS, data from a follow-up study to the NFP trial study in Elmira, New York, which was conducted fifteen years later, showed long-term positive effects for families that had participated in the initial study; and

WHEREAS, in the three randomized controlled trial studies of NFP, study participants have exhibited, in at least one study, a forty-eight percent reduction in child abuse and neglect, a fifty-nine percent reduction in arrests among children, and seventy-two percent fewer convictions of mothers; and

WHEREAS, the NFP program has served more than 20,000 vulnerable Louisiana families since 1999 and is inspired by a vision of a future where all children are healthy, where families thrive, where communities prosper, and where the cycle of poverty is broken; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, May 20, 2019, the NFP program will celebrate its twentieth anniversary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Nurse-Family Partnership in Louisiana on its twentieth anniversary and does hereby commend the individuals who operate this wonderful program which has been of great benefit to women and children in Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES