

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY SENATORS CARTER, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To express wholehearted support for law enforcement and police departments and reject any notion to defund law enforcement or police departments in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's law enforcement officers protect citizens from criminals who seek to perpetrate violence and harm innocent lives regardless of the political circumstances of the day; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's law enforcement community also seeks to assist the communities they serve through a variety of nontraditional means, including nonarrest pathways that connect individuals with treatment and recovery programs to overcome addiction, and juvenile diversion programs to prevent minors from entering the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, supporting law enforcement officers with the equipment, training, and funding necessary to serve our communities and keep our streets safe has long been a bipartisan issue; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's law enforcement officers willingly face dangerous circumstances and the threat of serious bodily injury or death on a daily basis to ensure the safety of all Louisiana citizens; and

WHEREAS, the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum reports that as of December 31, 2019, 1,627 of the nation's law enforcement officers had died in the line of duty during the past decade, a rate of one law enforcement death every fifty-four hours; and

WHEREAS, the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum's 2020 Mid-Year Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report detailed that sixty-five law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty this year, including twenty-seven officers who were killed in firearms-related incidents; and

WHEREAS, some politicians and interest groups have urged governmental bodies across the nation to defund law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, defunding or otherwise handcuffing law enforcement officers will make officers less likely to intervene in dangerous situations and will result in law enforcement pulling back from the neighborhoods they are entrusted to protect; and

WHEREAS, violent crime increases when law enforcement is forced to withdraw from neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, efforts to defund police departments will cause irreparable and lasting damage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express wholehearted support for law enforcement and police departments and reject any notion to defund law enforcement or police departments in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby offers sincere thanks and appreciation to Louisiana's law enforcement officers and police departments who protect and serve our communities and recognizes the great sacrifice our law enforcement officers and police departments make to keep our communities safe.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE