

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL, CARLSON, ECHOLS, FREIBERG, MELERINE,
OWEN, ST. BLANC, AND TAYLOR

SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES: Requests the state Department of Education, Department of Children and Family Services, and Louisiana Department of Health to collaborate to increase mental health counseling in public schools

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education, the Department of Children and
3 Family Services, and the Louisiana Department of Health to collaborate to increase
4 mental health counseling in public schools.

5 WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that children, adolescents, and teenagers
6 in the U.S. are suffering tremendously with mental health issues; in early 2023, the Centers
7 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that, from 2011 to 2021, there were high
8 and worsening levels of persistent sadness or hopelessness across all racial and ethnic groups
9 of adolescents in the U.S.; and

10 WHEREAS, the CDC further reported that a combination of complex factors can
11 place young people at high risk for suicide, depression, substance use disorder, poor
12 academic performance, and other severe consequences; and

13 WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Health office of behavioral
14 health, the COVID-19 pandemic magnified the challenges facing adolescents' and children's
15 mental health, causing altered experiences at home, school, and during in-person social
16 interaction; the pandemic also highlighted the need for increased access to healthcare and
17 social services as an alarming number of young people struggle with feelings of
18 helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide; and

19 WHEREAS, expanding services available to public school students is one way to
20 help young people with the challenges they face today and the resulting mental health issues;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, the standard of care to be followed by mental health professionals
2 serving students in public schools should be the same as the ethical standards of licensed
3 mental health professionals; and

4 WHEREAS, parental engagement, involvement, and consent is essential in moving
5 forward with such efforts.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 urge and request the state Department of Education, the Department of Children and Family
8 Services, and the Louisiana Department of Health to collaborate to increase mental health
9 counseling in public schools.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments shall submit a report to the
11 Legislature of Louisiana not later than February 1, 2025, that presents evidence of the
12 collaboration among the departments and of their efforts to identify and implement best
13 practices and a framework to increase mental health counseling in public schools.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15 state superintendent of education, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family
16 Services, and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 17 Engrossed

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Schlegel

Requests the state Dept. of Education, the Dept. of Children and Family Services, and the La. Dept. of Health to collaborate to increase mental health counseling in public schools.