

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 232

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

A RESOLUTION

To designate Wednesday, May 15, 2024, as Homeschool Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, it is the fundamental, unalienable right of parents to direct the upbringing, care, and education of their children; and

WHEREAS, every individual and each family has the unalienable right to act and order their lives according to their conscience; and

WHEREAS, the United States recognizes it is a legal and philosophical right of parents to home educate their children; and

WHEREAS, in essence, homeschooling is private, parent-led, home-based education and is an age-old educational practice that a decade ago appeared to be cutting-edge and alternative but is now bordering on mainstream in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are about 3.1 million home-educated students in the United States, and the homeschool population continues to grow; according to a recent *Washington Post* analysis, the number of homeschooling students from 2017 to 2023 has risen by 51%, doubling original numbers; and

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Education, there are almost 45,000 K-12 homeschool students in Louisiana for the 2023-2024 academic year, saving Louisiana taxpayers at least \$689 million; and

WHEREAS, most parents and youth decide to homeschool for more than one reason; and

WHEREAS, the most common reasons given for choosing home-based education include the desire to customize or individualize the curriculum and learning environment for each child; to enhance family relationships between children and parents and among

siblings; to teach and impart a particular set of values, beliefs, and worldviews to children and youth, among other reasons; and

WHEREAS, a 2024 data analysis revealed that Louisiana homeschool students are scoring at the 79th to 85th percentile across the subjects of reading, language, math, science, and social studies on standardized academic achievement tests, which is twenty-nine to thirty-five percentile points above the U.S. public school average; and

WHEREAS, according to studies, homeschool students are doing well, typically above average, on measures of social, emotional, and psychological development and are regularly engaged in multiple social and educational activities outside their homes and with people other than their nuclear-family members; and

WHEREAS, the research base of adults who were homeschooled is growing, and thus far research shows homeschool graduates are quite successful in adulthood and go on to succeed at college at an equal or higher rate than the general population, participate in local community service more frequently than the general population, and vote and attend public meetings more frequently than the general population, among other indices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Wednesday, May 15, 2024, as Homeschool Day at the state capitol; does hereby extend sincere gratitude to the parents who choose to homeschool for their pedagogical efforts on behalf of their children; and does hereby salute the homeschooled children whose academic and personal excellence are of immense benefit to the great state of Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES