

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study the feasibility of implementing a 233 helpline as an additional resource for sexual abuse victims in this state.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health identifies unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material, language, or contact as sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Newcomb Institute at Tulane University conducted the Louisiana Study on Violence Experiences Across the Lifespan (LaVEX) during the summer of 2023 and surveyed more than one thousand adults across the state on a comprehensive range of experiences of violence, which included instances of verbal abuse, cyberbullying, sexual assault, and gun violence; and

WHEREAS, according to the LaVEX study, forty-one percent of adults in Louisiana have experienced sexual violence or harassment in their lifetime, twenty-nine percent of adults in Louisiana have been verbally sexually harassed, and eleven percent of adults in Louisiana have experienced sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the LaVEX study also found that women often experienced such abuse at the hands of a romantic or sexual partner; and

WHEREAS, forty-two percent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner with only ten percent of these women reporting their partner; and

WHEREAS, organizations like the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA), the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), and Sexual Trauma

Awareness & Response (STAR) exist to address sexual abuse concerns in this state and offer resources to survivors; and

WHEREAS, such sexual abuse initiatives provide support services to survivors and statewide sexual assault crisis centers through education, professional training, technical assistance, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Family Services has implemented a hotline for child abuse and neglect, which includes reports of sexual trafficking; and

WHEREAS, expansion of such services could be beneficial to Louisiana residents who are currently facing or have faced sexual abuse, reported or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Family Services should research and consider the implementation of a 233 helpline as an additional resource for sexual abuse victims in this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study the feasibility of implementing a 233 helpline as an additional resource for sexual abuse victims in this state and submit its findings in the form of a written report by February 1, 2025 to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include information about means of funding for creating a helpline and determining costs for a marketing campaign to boost awareness of the 233 helpline initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE