

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 212

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To continue the study committee created pursuant to House Resolution No. 146 of the 2012

Regular Session of the Legislature to examine and report on advancing the well-being of the African American family by strengthening all areas of family relationships.

WHEREAS, the purpose of this study is to examine methods of strengthening all areas of African American family relationships, including marital, parental, and spousal involvement; and

WHEREAS, while African American families share many features with other United States families, the African American family has some distinctive features and set of experiences which help shape their behaviors and attitudes toward family; and

WHEREAS, family values are the cornerstone of a person's personal and professional life; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the involvement of faith-based organizations for the moral and spiritual growth of the African American family; and

WHEREAS, faith-based organizations are an integral part of the development of the family and the community; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a strong, cohesive family unit can improve African American performance in the areas of social, educational, and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, to ensure proud, capable African American children requires enhanced parenting skills; and

WHEREAS, improved family functioning, specifically, in the area of parenting can discourage and reduce behavior problems in children; and

WHEREAS, the African American father has a pivotal role as a provider, protector, and disciplinarian, but he also is an equally important factor in the socialization of his children; and

WHEREAS, the communication skills gained at an early age become an integral part of navigating social situations, and ultimately in educational and professional advancement; and

WHEREAS, education is widely recognized as the gateway to economic security; and

WHEREAS, a parent's background and education are some of the primary factors impacting a child's performance in school; and

WHEREAS, the lack of an education and resulting poverty are strongly related to many of the family and social issues which plague the African American community; and

WHEREAS, understanding the structure of the African American family can play an important role in improving social skills, increasing educational attainment, creating economic opportunity, and providing a platform for greater civic, social, and political discourse; and

WHEREAS, this study shall provide an initial exploration of how family intervention programs can serve to strengthen the African American family unit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend the study committee, composed of members as hereinafter provided, to study and make recommendations with respect to the structure of the African American family as it relates to education outcomes, socioeconomic factors, and health disparities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall remain comprised of eleven members as follows:

- (1) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- (2) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his designee.
- (3) The superintendent of the Department of Education or his designee.
- (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.
- (5) The president of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.-Central Louisiana or his designee.
- (6) The president of NAACP Shreveport Chapter or his designee.
- (7) The president of the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge or his designee.

(8) The president of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans or his designee.

(9) The executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention or his designee.

(10) The bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette or his designee.

(11) The pastor of the River of Life Nondenominational Church in Winnsboro, Louisiana, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall appoint a chairman who shall facilitate the organization of the committee in the adoption of rules of procedure, adoption of a work schedule, and adoption of any additional measures that it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the study committee shall continue to serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for incurred expenses as provided by their respective organizations; and that other members shall be paid in accordance with state travel regulations by the respective departments, agencies, or associations of which they are officers or employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee may request and utilize such counsel, assistance, personnel, facilities, and advice as may be obtained from any and all sources, public and private, including but not limited to state agencies, business, labor, private research agencies, individuals, and organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee, at a minimum, shall review and consider the following: (1) improving parenting skills and techniques; (2) decreasing behavior problems in children; (3) discouraging and eliminating the desire to commit crimes; (4) connecting families with a higher power; (5) improving educational skills in parents and children; (6) encouraging improvement of property standards; (7) introducing structured guidance in early education; (8) encouraging fatherhood training; (9) increasing access to pastoral training; and (10) offering single mother counseling services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the study committee shall offer solutions to the issues in the African American community relative to marital, parental, and spousal involvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall have the authority to consider, investigate, and evaluate any and all other matters or issues relevant to strengthening the African American family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall meet as necessary and shall report its findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare not later than March 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals; the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services; the superintendent of the Department of Education; executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission; the president of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.-Central Louisiana; the president of NAACP Shreveport Chapter; the president of the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge; the executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention; the bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette; and the pastor of the River of Life Nondenominational Church.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES