

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATOR DORSEY-COLOMB

PUBLIC HEALTH. Directs the Department of Health and Hospitals to declare youth violence a public health epidemic and the Department of Education to establish a statewide trauma-informed education program.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to declare youth violence a public health
3 epidemic and the Department of Education to establish a statewide trauma-informed
4 education program.

5 WHEREAS, youth across Louisiana are committing acts of violence against one
6 another and throughout their communities; and

7 WHEREAS, a national survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
8 (CDC) found that adults in the United States reported approximately one million five
9 hundred sixty thousand incidents of victimization by perpetrators estimated to be between
10 twelve and twenty years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, the CDC reports that many people survive violence and are left with
12 permanent physical and emotional scars, and that violence erodes communities by reducing
13 productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting social services; and

14 WHEREAS, a national initiative lead by the CDC, *Striving to Reduce Youth Violence*
15 *Everywhere* (STRYVE), assists communities in applying a public health perspective to
16 preventing youth violence; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1985, then United States Surgeon General C. Everett Koop declared
18 violence to be a public health issue and called for the application of the science of public

1 health to address treatment and prevention of violence; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2000, then United States Surgeon General David Satcher declared
3 youth violence a public health epidemic; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Satcher released a report declaring youth violence a threat to public
5 health and calling for federal, state, local and private entities to invest in research on youth
6 violence and for the use of the knowledge gained to inform intervention programs; and

7 WHEREAS, the report states that the public health approach to youth violence
8 involves identifying risk and protective factors, determining how they work, making the
9 public aware of these findings and designing programs to prevent or stop the violence; and

10 WHEREAS, the 2000 public health report calls for national resolve to confront the
11 problem of youth violence systematically; to facilitate entry of youth into effective
12 intervention programs rather than incarceration; to improve public awareness of effective
13 interventions; to convene youth, families, researchers and public and private organizations
14 for periodic youth violence summits; to develop new collaborative multidisciplinary
15 partnerships; and to hold periodic, highly visible national summits; and

16 WHEREAS, an individual's characteristics, experiences and environmental
17 conditions during childhood and adolescence are indicators of future violent behavior; and

18 WHEREAS, ages fifteen through eighteen, the ages that students spend in high
19 school, are the peak years of youth violence; and

20 WHEREAS, there is great concern over high school dropout rates, poor academic
21 performance and violence in schools across this state; and

22 WHEREAS, the Yale University School of Medicine, Child Study Center, Comer
23 School Development Program (SDP) is an operating system comprised of three teams: the
24 school planning and management team, the student and staff support team, and the parent
25 team, which work together to create a comprehensive school plan, to design and conduct
26 staff development aligned with the goals of the comprehensive school plan, and to assess and
27 modify the plan as necessary using a wide range of student and school-level data to ensure
28 that the school is continuously improving.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
30 direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to declare youth violence a public health

1 epidemic and the Department of Education to establish a statewide trauma-informed
2 education program.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals and the superintendent of the
5 Department of Education.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

DIGEST

Dorsey-Colomb

SCR No. 44

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