HLS 14RS-2300 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state and urges citizens to work together to prevent child abuse and neglect

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To recognize the month of April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Louisiana and
3	to urge Louisianians to work toward preventing child abuse and neglect.
4	WHEREAS, the month of April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month
5	by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 when child abuse and neglect threatened the lives and
6	health of more than a million of the nation's children; that number is estimated to have
7	grown in the ensuing years to nearly three million, including almost 100,000 abused or
8	neglected children in Louisiana, with a significant number of cases unreported; and
9	WHEREAS, the evils of child abuse and neglect are manifested in inhumane ways
10	and children may be endangered by physical battering, denial of the basic necessities for life
11	and health, sexual abuse and exploitation, or emotional cruelty; and
12	WHEREAS, some of the warning signs of child abuse and neglect include
13	unexplained injuries; changes in behavior; returning to behaviors displayed in earlier years,
14	such as bed-wetting or thumb-sucking; fear of going home; changes in eating; changes in
15	sleeping; changes in school performance and attendance; lack of personal care or hygiene;
16	risk-taking behaviors; and inappropriate sexual behaviors; and
17	WHEREAS, The National Child Traumatic Stress Network espouses the philosophy
18	that the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that can be
19	prevented when community programs and systems are in place that foster early childhood
20	development, parental support, and maternal mental health; and

1 WHEREAS, finding solutions for the prevention of child abuse and neglect depends 2 on the involvement of individuals who reach out to help the parents in their communities 3 raise their children in safe, nurturing environments, and every effort must be made to 4 promote programs that benefit families with children; and 5 WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed with partnerships 6 among state and local government health and social agencies, schools, religious 7 organizations, law enforcement, and the business community; and 8 WHEREAS, the Center of Empowerment For Families & Youth, Inc., and Antioch 9 Full Gospel Baptist Church in Baton Rouge have partnered to host Walk A Mile Save A 10 Child Charity Walk on April 5, 2014, in honor of national Child Abuse Prevention 11 Awareness Month; and 12 WHEREAS, citizens of the state should be encouraged to embrace their human duty to recognize and respond to the physical suffering and emotional anguish of abused children 13 14 by financially supporting or participating in community programs like Walk A Mile Save 15 A Mile Charity Walk and by actively engaging in efforts to prevent such maltreatment. 16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 17 recognize April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state and does hereby 18 encourage the citizens of Louisiana to respond and react to the warning signs of child abuse 19 and neglect and to support efforts to prevent the abuse and neglect of children.

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)]

Barrow HCR No. 58

Recognizes April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in La.