

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize the month of April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Louisiana and to urge Louisianians to work toward preventing child abuse and neglect.

WHEREAS, the month of April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 when child abuse and neglect threatened the lives and health of more than a million of the nation's children; that number is estimated to have grown in the ensuing years to nearly three million, including almost 100,000 abused or neglected children in Louisiana, with a significant number of cases unreported; and

WHEREAS, the evils of child abuse and neglect are manifested in inhumane ways and children may be endangered by physical battering, denial of the basic necessities for life and health, sexual abuse and exploitation, or emotional cruelty; and

WHEREAS, some of the warning signs of child abuse and neglect include unexplained injuries; changes in behavior; returning to behaviors displayed in earlier years, such as bed-wetting or thumb-sucking; fear of going home; changes in eating; changes in sleeping; changes in school performance and attendance; lack of personal care or hygiene; risk-taking behaviors; and inappropriate sexual behaviors; and

WHEREAS, The National Child Traumatic Stress Network espouses the philosophy that the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that can be prevented when community programs and systems are in place that foster early childhood development, parental support, and maternal mental health; and

WHEREAS, finding solutions for the prevention of child abuse and neglect depends on the involvement of individuals who reach out to help the parents in their communities raise their children in safe, nurturing environments, and every effort must be made to promote programs that benefit families with children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed with partnerships among state and local government health and social agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, the Center of Empowerment For Families & Youth, Inc., and Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church in Baton Rouge have partnered to host Walk A Mile Save A Child Charity Walk on April 5, 2014, in honor of national Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month; and

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 by financially supporting or participating in community programs like Walk A Mile Save A Child Charity Walk and by actively engaging in efforts to prevent such maltreatment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state and does hereby encourage the citizens of Louisiana to respond and react to the warning signs of child abuse and neglect and to support efforts to prevent the abuse and neglect of children.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE