

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAINES

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for its commitment to social, economic, and political justice and to welcome its national convention to Baton Rouge in July of 2015.

WHEREAS, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is a nonsectarian advocacy organization established by the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and other notable civil rights leaders in 1957 to coordinate and assist local organizations working for the equality of African Americans in all aspects of American life; and

WHEREAS, the SCLC was organized in New Orleans, Louisiana, and its inaugural meeting was held on February 14, 1957, at New Zion Baptist Church in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the SCLC had a significant role in organizing the civil rights march in Washington, D.C., and in notable antidiscrimination and voter registration efforts in Albany, Georgia, and Birmingham and Selma, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the visibility of the SCLC during the civil rights movement, particularly the courageous efforts displayed during the Selma movement, laid the groundwork for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, SCLC's nonviolent protests, advocacy, and direct action ensured that civil rights would be placed at the top of the national agenda, securing equal rights for African Americans and helping to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, the SCLC aims to promote spiritual principles within its membership and local communities, educate youth and adults in the areas of personal responsibility, leadership potential, and community service, ensure economic justice and civil rights in the areas of discrimination and affirmative action, and eradicate racism; and

WHEREAS, SCLC influence and interest has become international in scope because the human rights movement transcends national boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2015, the SCLC will hold its fifty-seventh National Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for its commitment to achieve social, economic, and political justice and does hereby welcome its fifty-seventh National Convention to Baton Rouge in July of 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., president and chief executive officer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES