

2016 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY SENATORS COLOMB, BARROW, HEWITT, MIZELL AND PETERSON AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, CARPENTER, DAVIS, EMERSON, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HORTON, JACKSON, NANCY LANDRY, MARCELLE, MORENO, NORTON, SMITH, STOKES AND WHITE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Iris Domestic Violence Center upon being selected as a recipient of a Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Award as a Non-Profit of Excellence.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Iris Domestic Violence Center upon its receipt of a 2016 Women of
3 Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in
4 the category of Non-Profit of Excellence.

5 WHEREAS, the mission of Iris Domestic Violence Center of Baton Rouge is to
6 protect and empower survivors, prevent relationship violence, and promote justice for
7 victims of domestic violence and dating violence, their children, and our communities; and

8 WHEREAS, the center fields approximately seven thousand 24-hour crisis line calls
9 annually, approximately 4,800 victims of domestic violence receive services annually,
10 approximately 1,300 domestic violence survivors receive emergency shelter services, and
11 3,000 receive legal and nonresidential services; and

12 WHEREAS, Iris also assists with securing approximately 4,000 protective orders for
13 victims of domestic violence and their children; and

14 WHEREAS, for more than thirty-five years, the center has provided professional,
15 compassionate, and empowering support to battered women and their children in the Capital
16 Area as the oldest and one of the largest nonprofit domestic violence organizations in
17 Louisiana which serves seven parishes - East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville,
18 Ascension, Pointe Coupee, East Feliciana and West Feliciana, and a total population of

1 663,255; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1978, following a year-long study of family violence in the Baton
3 Rouge area, Baton Rouge Mayor-President Woody Dumas' Commission on the Needs of
4 Women began a limited domestic violence project using federal, state, and local funding; in
5 1981, a nonprofit Domestic Violence Corporation was formed to purchase and renovate a
6 facility in Baton Rouge for the purpose of operating Emergency Shelter for Battered Women
7 Capital Area Family Violence Intervention Center (CAFVIC), Incorporated which was then
8 incorporated as a nonprofit charitable organization; in 1982, a 24-Hour 7 day/week crisis
9 hotline became operational and support groups were started as well as child care and
10 transportation services; in 1986, the agency began a weekly support group at the Louisiana
11 Correctional Institute for Women in St. Gabriel that operates to this day; in 1988, the agency
12 renovated its current 17,545 square feet, two-story emergency shelter facility, with a 25-bed
13 capacity; in 1990, bed space was increased to thirty-six and the shelter now has a bed
14 capacity to accommodate fifty women and children; and in 1995, the program opened its
15 first full-time outreach office in Gonzales to serve residents of Ascension Parish; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2013, CAFVIC began doing business as Iris Domestic Violence
17 Center, the new name being based on the hardy flowers, native to Louisiana, that grow in
18 gardens, swamps, and fields across the state, and its purple color is the domestic violence
19 awareness color; the Iris is known for being tough and resilient, continuing to bloom year
20 after year - an appropriate metaphor for survivors of domestic violence served by the center;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, today, Iris employs twenty-two full-time staff and three contract
23 attorneys; has over two hundred active volunteers and volunteer organizations, operates a
24 24-hour Crisis Hotline, a residential emergency shelter and a wide range of support services
25 to survivors of domestic violence and their children including adult advocacy, legal
26 advocacy, legal assistance, child support services, outreach, education and training, and
27 operates four domestic violence outreach offices in Baton Rouge, Gonzales, Plaquemine and
28 Port Allen free of charge; and

29 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the
30 Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence

1 across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

2 WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics
3 of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are
4 committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

5 WHEREAS, for 2016, there are four categories for the Women of Excellence
6 Awards: College Women of Excellence, High School Women of Excellence, Louisiana Hero
7 of Excellence, and Non-Profit of Excellence; and

8 WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2016 Women of Excellence Awards are being
9 recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of
10 Excellence Awards & Scholarships Ceremony and Reception on Tuesday, May 24, 2016;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the Iris Domestic Violence Center has been named a recipient of a 2016
13 Women of Excellence Award in the category of Non-Profit of Excellence for its work to
14 improve and strengthen the lives of women in Louisiana; and

15 WHEREAS, the Iris Domestic Violence Center merits a sincere and heartfelt
16 measure of commendation for its dedication to excellence and outstanding accomplishments,
17 and it is appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to commend the Iris Domestic Violence
18 Center upon its receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana
19 Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation and to recognize its vital contributions to the
20 citizens of Louisiana.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22 commend the Iris Domestic Violence Center upon its receipt of a 2016 Women of
23 Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the
24 category of Non-Profit of Excellence; does hereby recognize and record for posterity its
25 singular contributions to the citizens of Louisiana; and does hereby extend enduring
26 appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that the Iris Domestic Violence Center
27 brings to the state of Louisiana.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 Iris Domestic Violence Center.

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