

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVE STOKES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, May 31, 2016, as abstinence day in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in early Christian and classical societies, the survival of a community was understood to depend on the virtue of its citizens; to this way of thinking, the government's most important role was training its citizens to be virtuous; and

WHEREAS, though various ancient communities emphasized various aspects of virtue, the idea always implied an element of self-discipline, of controlling the passions, which allows one to act for the well being of others, rather than being controlled by the passions, which produces a life of indulgence and destruction; and

WHEREAS, notions like temperance and chastity were essential to human well being as without these virtues, people were expected to act selfishly and without regard for the social bonds that hold communities together; and

WHEREAS, in the modern era, we have largely lost sight of social bonds, social obligations, and virtue and replaced them self-interest as the presumed essential driver of human action; as a result, modern communities are held together not by the virtue of their citizens but by regulatory governments; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that this trend be reversed and that the citizens of our state and nation rediscover their responsibilities to each other and the need for limitations on self-interest and self-indulgence; and

WHEREAS, the absence of the virtue chastity, for example, results in unwanted pregnancies and abortions and all of the social costs and degradation that come with them, but as the classical thinkers, from Aristotle to St. Augustine, teach us, we can build virtuous character through virtuous practice, and in the interest of rebuilding the virtue chastity, practicing abstinence would be a beneficial place to start.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby declares Tuesday, May 31, 2016, as abstinence day in the state of Louisiana and calls upon Louisiana citizens to contemplate their moral responsibilities to the social fabric of our communities in considering their sexual practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana encourages each citizen to also observe abstinence day by considering other virtues he or she might practice as a way to reestablish a society built on social bonds and obligations rather than regulation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE