

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND GATTI AND REPRESENTATIVES BAGLEY AND JENKINS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the Louisiana Association for the Blind of Shreveport, Louisiana, on the occasion of its ninetieth anniversary and to recognize the many opportunities and enrichment it provides for the visually impaired.

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1927, the Louisiana Association for the Blind (LAB) was established through an alliance with the Shreveport Downtown Lions, a chapter of Lions Clubs International, to improve the quality of life for visually impaired individuals by providing training, services, and employment; and

WHEREAS, the LAB first began operations in the 1930s when in-house employment for visually impaired workers was limited to the production of mops and brooms by hand; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, the LAB product line began to evolve in an effort to capture federal contracts for paper tablets and products used in governmental offices; building on that success, the LAB expanded its product catalog to include copier paper, cleaning products, and safety products, such as anti-slip traction stripping; and

WHEREAS, the LAB is proud of its affiliation with Fort Polk Army Base in Leesville and Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier Parish, as contractors who stock base supply centers with products used by military personnel; and

WHEREAS, today, the LAB continues to maintain a safe and flexible work environment in which each individual can reach his potential and personal goals; and

WHEREAS, as an approved provider of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, the LAB instructs adults in the acquisition of marketable skills necessary to enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Association for the Blind fulfills a wide variety of contracts for commercial clientele that includes product assembly, manufacturing, and packaging, along with a state-of-the-art digital printing operation; and

WHEREAS, its Low Vision Rehabilitation Center provides a full range of rehabilitation and employment services and low-vision products and serves over two

thousand Louisianians annually; and

WHEREAS, instruction and services offered by the LAB include orientation and mobility, Braille reading and writing, computer training, independent living, job readiness, customer service and tech support training, low-vision evaluations, and programs for youth, seniors, and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, loss of sight may occur at anytime, however extraordinary educational techniques are implemented to teach infants and youngsters who would, under ordinary circumstances, learn to navigate their environment by visual cues; and

WHEREAS, the LAB supports parental training and counseling and conducts an annual Children's Clinic to provide assistance and adaptive technologies for school-age children that enable these students to learn and explore the world around them through reading; and

WHEREAS, the LAB scholarship fund was created to provide financial aid to the state's visually challenged citizens who pursue career goals and postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, after ninety years, the mission of the Louisiana Association for the Blind endures and the organization continues to expand its rehabilitation services and provides innovative employment opportunities for individuals with visual impairment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the Louisiana Association for the Blind on the occasion of its ninetieth anniversary and recognize the many employment opportunities and enrichment it provides for the visually impaired of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Shelly Taylor, president of the Louisiana Association for the Blind and Josh Trahan, chairman of the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Association for the Blind.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES