

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Tuesday, May 16, 2017, as "School Choice Day" at the Louisiana State Capitol and to encourage all Louisianians to learn more about school choice programs.

WHEREAS, Louisiana parents should have a wide range of high-quality school and education options to choose from, be it traditional public schools, public charter schools, private schools, or virtual learning; and

WHEREAS, the school choice program gives students, including those from low-income families and those with special needs, the opportunity to receive tuition to attend a private school of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the publicly funded Louisiana Scholarship Program empowers low-income parents by providing them with the financial resources needed to send their children to the school of their choice; and

WHEREAS, during fiscal year 2016-2017, six thousand six hundred ninety-five students were able to utilize the Louisiana Scholarship Program in one hundred twenty-three different schools within thirty-one school districts; and

WHEREAS, the average scholarship amount for a Louisiana Scholarship Program recipient was five thousand eight hundred seventy-nine dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Tuition Donation Rebate Program empowers low-income Louisiana families with the financial resources to choose the school that will best prepare their children for college and the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Tuition Donation Rebate Program provides rebates to Louisiana state taxpayers that donate to school tuition organizations, tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, school tuition organizations use the donations to provide scholarships to students in low-income families; and

WHEREAS, during fiscal year 2016-2017, one thousand six hundred ninety-two students were able to take advantage of the Tuition Donation Rebate Program; and

WHEREAS, the average scholarship amount for the program recipient was four thousand one hundred thirty-seven dollars; and

WHEREAS, since first launched in New Orleans in 2008 and expanded statewide in 2012, the Louisiana Scholarship Program has assisted thousands of Louisiana families in choosing a school that best fits the needs of their children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Tuesday, May 16, 2017, as "School Choice Day" at the Louisiana State Capitol and encourage all Louisianians to learn more about school choice programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana state president of the American Federation for Children.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES