

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY SENATOR GATTI

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Declares Wednesday, April 4, 2018, as Start by Believing Day.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To declare Wednesday, April 4, 2018, as Start by Believing Day.

3 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana shares a critical concern for victims of sexual
4 violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2017, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response®, or better known as
6 STAR®, served the needs of 300 victims by providing individual and group counseling
7 sessions, 655 victims by providing accompaniment to hospital exams, law enforcement
8 interviews, or other proceedings, and 150 victims by providing legal representation services;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, current estimates suggest no more than twenty percent of sexual assaults
11 will be reported to law enforcement and less than three percent will result in the conviction
12 and incarceration of the perpetrator; and

13 WHEREAS, research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their
14 sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt,
15 shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and
16 psychological well-being; and

17 WHEREAS, the Start by Believing public awareness campaign, a program of End
18 Violence Against Women International, is designed to improve the responses of friends,

1 family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims to access supportive
2 resources and engage the criminal justice system.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
4 does hereby declare Wednesday, April 4, 2018, as Start by Believing Day and does hereby
5 express support of the Start by Believing public awareness campaign.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

	DIGEST	
SR 72 Original	2018 Regular Session	Gatti

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