

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATOR JOHNS AND REPRESENTATIVE DWIGHT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to ascertain whether the Jason Flatt Act is complied with by all Louisiana public, approved nonpublic, and charter school teachers, school counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom suicide awareness training is deemed beneficial.

WHEREAS, suicide is the third leading cause of death for Louisiana teens; and

WHEREAS, the Jason Flatt Act, R.S. 17:437.1, was unanimously enacted in the 2008 Regular Session and requires that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) develop and adopt guidelines for in-service training in suicide prevention and identify suitable materials for use in such training; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:437.1 also requires BESE adopt rules to require that all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school counselors, and principals and, as determined by BESE, other school administrators for whom such training is deemed beneficial participate annually in at least two hours of in-service training in suicide prevention and include provisions permitting such training to be provided by self-review of suitable materials; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Jason Flatt Act is to save the lives of Louisiana teens by requiring two hours of mandatory suicide awareness training annually for all Louisiana public, nonpublic, and charter school teachers, school counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom suicide awareness training is deemed beneficial; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the legislature that the Jason Flatt Act has not been, and is not now, being complied with by all Louisiana educational personnel subject to its mandate; and

WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance that the Jason Flatt Act be complied with on a uniform and consistent basis by all Louisiana educational personnel subject to its mandate to avoid the unnecessary loss of Louisiana teen lives to suicide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is hereby urged and requested to annually survey all Louisiana public, approved nonpublic, and charter school teachers, school counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom suicide awareness training is deemed beneficial in order to ascertain their compliance with R.S. 17:437.1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education mandate that all Louisiana school governing authorities document and verify to the state Department of Education by December thirty-first of each year that all Louisiana public, approved nonpublic, and charter school teachers, school counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom suicide awareness training is deemed beneficial have received the mandated annual two hour suicide awareness in-service training through use of BESE's adopted suicide awareness curriculum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall submit a written report of survey findings and any recommendations to ensure compliance with the Jason Flatt Act to the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the House Committee on Health and Welfare not later than March first of each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the chairman of the House Committee on Education, and the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES