

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY SENATOR GATTI

JUVENILES. Requests Senate Committee on Judiciary C and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study solitary confinement of juveniles and implementation of mental health evaluations for juveniles prior to detention.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Senate Committee on Judiciary C and the Department of Public  
3 Safety and Corrections to study the practices of solitary confinement, isolation and  
4 extended lock down of juveniles, and the feasibility of implementing of mental  
5 health evaluations for juveniles prior to detention in juvenile facilities.

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana incarcerates more delinquent youth per capita than any other  
7 state; and

8 WHEREAS, each of Louisiana's secured juvenile facilities exceed national standards  
9 for facility size, creating safety and other issues and leaving such facilities ill-prepared to  
10 ensure rehabilitation as defined by the American Correctional Association; and

11 WHEREAS, Louisiana's secured juvenile facilities still practice the use of solitary  
12 confinement to control behavior; and

13 WHEREAS, solitary confinement requires substantial isolation of the delinquent  
14 youth from other delinquent youth, and while in solitary confinement the youth's privileges  
15 and social contact with others are limited; and

16 WHEREAS, research shows that experiencing solitary confinement can cause rage  
17 and frustration and also lead to depression and anxiety, and thousands of juveniles are  
18 subjected to solitary confinement every year; and

