

2022 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Louisiana Endowment of the Humanities for its outstanding contributions to the state of Louisiana and to express sincere gratitude to the Prime Time Head Start programs for its lasting contributions to early childhood education in Lafayette Parish and in Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for its outstanding contributions  
3 to the state of Louisiana and to express sincere gratitude to the Prime Time Head  
4 Start programs for its lasting contributions to early childhood education in Lafayette  
5 Parish and in Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, founded in 1971, acts as  
7 a steward of Louisiana's diverse culture, keeper of its vibrant history, and supporter of its  
8 humanities-centered programming; and

9 WHEREAS, its mission is to partner with communities, institutions, and individuals  
10 to explore Louisiana's past, while reflecting on its present, and imagining its future; and

11 WHEREAS, the humanities are the exploration and documentation of the human  
12 experience with an approach to learning that cultivates critical thinkers who can become  
13 more appreciative of divergent opinions, more creative in the exploration of work and study,  
14 and more open to innovation; and

15 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities is dedicated to ensuring  
16 access to the humanities, and to offering and broadening pathways that lead to a lifetime of  
17 learning for people of every generation and from every walk of life; the organization  
18 champions the humanities to enrich the lives of Louisianians in all sixty-four parishes; and

1           WHEREAS, the vision of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities is for  
2 residents to realize their full potential through the humanities and it values excellence in  
3 stewardship of the resources entrusted to it from individuals, corporations, and organizations,  
4 and partnerships with federal, state, and local governments with equity and integrity; and

5           WHEREAS, in 1991, the child and family education arm of the Louisiana  
6 Endowment for the Humanities created Prime Time Incorporated, a program dedicated to  
7 strengthening families and communities by making quality humanities-based education  
8 accessible to all; Prime Time, Inc. offers programs designed to engage, educate, and support  
9 children and their families; and

10           WHEREAS, Prime Time, Inc. was awarded a federal grant in 2020 to operate head  
11 start and early childhood education programs in Lafayette and Iberia parishes, and in  
12 Lafayette, the former Immaculate Heart of Mary School was an ideal physical location for  
13 the program with a rich history of educating children in a community-based environment;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was created in 1934 to be the  
16 home of the first black priests, known as the four Divine Word Missionaries, to be trained  
17 and ordained in the United States, and the Church established a school that same year; and

18           WHEREAS, after many years of providing a caring and faith-filled learning  
19 environment for children, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School closed ahead of the  
20 2016-2017 school year when the Diocese of Lafayette announced that the campus did not  
21 have the enrollment numbers or financial support needed to continue operating; and

22           WHEREAS, in April, 2022, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities celebrated  
23 the grand opening of its second Prime Time Head Start location in Lafayette at the former  
24 Immaculate Heart of Mary School; this project has revitalized a landmark for black  
25 Catholics and the northside community and provides school readiness programming for  
26 children ages three to five years old from low-income families at no cost; and

27           WHEREAS, Prime Time Head Start offers a relentless focus on positive child and  
28 family outcomes to help close the achievement gap and build bright futures for the children,  
29 families, and communities served by the head start program; and

30           WHEREAS, children at the Prime Time Head Start in Lafayette receive personalized

1 instruction based on the Frog Street curriculum, which is a tier one prekindergarten  
 2 educational program, while their families receive advocate-led assistance that connects them  
 3 to social services helping them create the most solid foundation possible for their children;  
 4 and

5 WHEREAS, the collaborative efforts of the Louisiana Endowment for the  
 6 Humanities through the Prime Time Head Start Program and the steadfast determination of  
 7 the Immaculate Heart of St. Mary parish is commendable and an admirable model for  
 8 innovative educational opportunities in Louisiana.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
 10 does hereby recognize the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for its dedication to  
 11 preserving the study of humanities in the state of Louisiana and does hereby extend  
 12 congratulations upon the grand opening of its second Prime Time Head Start Program  
 13 location in Lafayette.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
 15 Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and the Prime Time Head Start at Immaculate  
 16 Heart of St. Mary.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Kenyatta M. Honeycutt.

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	DIGEST	
SR 97 Original	2022 Regular Session	Boudreaux

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