

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Odyssey House Louisiana for its mission, growth, and impact over fifty years of treating individuals with chronic addictions

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Odyssey House Louisiana for its mission, growth, and impact over fifty years  
3 of treating individuals with chronic addictions.

4 WHEREAS, Odyssey House Louisiana (OHL) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization  
5 that was established on February 20, 1973, in New Orleans by a small group of committed  
6 individuals, including its founder and first executive director, Alice "Maggie" Pike; the  
7 organization traces its roots to the Odyssey House therapeutic community founded in New  
8 York in 1967 by Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber; and

9 WHEREAS, OHL is primarily committed to serving Louisianians who cannot afford  
10 their own medical treatment, especially those who are most vulnerable and at risk, and has  
11 grown from a small residential treatment program into a robust network that provides  
12 services across New Orleans and offers programs in cities throughout south Louisiana,  
13 including Lake Charles and Morgan City; and

14 WHEREAS, OHL is headquartered in its original home in the Tremé/Lafitte  
15 neighborhood; it is a historic facility that was erected in 1866, at the request of Thomy  
16 Lafon, to be run by the Sisters of the Holy Family as an orphanage for children displaced by  
17 the Civil War; after Mr. Lafon's death in 1893, his bequests funded an expansion to the  
18 facility and services provided; and

19 WHEREAS, after the Sisters of the Holy Family relocated in 1973, the building was  
20 purchased through community donations and renovated into Odyssey House Louisiana; the  
21 facility offers a broad range of services including medically monitored detoxing, short- or

1 long-term residential treatment, treatment for pregnant women and women with dependent  
2 children, and sober living; these services are provided in combination with case  
3 management, housing, and mental health and primary medical care; and

4 WHEREAS, OHL has been recognized for its dynamic treatment model, which  
5 integrates primary and behavioral health care with an emphasis on addiction by way of its  
6 federally qualified health centers, and treatment facilities across the country have started to  
7 replicate this model as a result of its efficacy; and

8 WHEREAS, the OHL Prevention Department, with the support of grant funding, has  
9 saved thousands of lives through naloxone distribution and training, infectious disease  
10 testing, and fentanyl test strip distribution; it has also developed radio, podcast, and social  
11 media content that addresses substance-use-specific issues facing Louisiana's youth; and

12 WHEREAS, OHL opened Louisiana's first sobering center, the Odyssey House  
13 Louisiana Sobering Center, in 2019; the development was constructed, in partnership with  
14 the City of New Orleans, to provide individuals with a safe place to sober up and convenient  
15 access to further treatment, while also reducing the burden they might place on hospitals and  
16 the criminal justice system; and

17 WHEREAS, after Hurricane Katrina, OHL helped to rebuild health service delivery  
18 systems in New Orleans, and it remained operational throughout the COVID-19 pandemic  
19 to ensure that individuals seeking treatment could have access to services; the organization  
20 continues to expand its capacity to meet the growing need for treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, Odyssey House Louisiana is most deserving of the highest recognition  
22 for its unfaltering dedication to providing addiction treatment services to at-risk  
23 Louisianians.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Odyssey House Louisiana for its mission,  
26 growth, and impact over fifty years of treating individuals with chronic addictions and does  
27 hereby extend sincerest wishes that it continue to receive the support it needs to carry out  
28 its laudable mission of service.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 112 Original

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