

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY SENATORS CARTER AND DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend BlackGirlsRun (BGR!), a national running organization, on their fifteenth anniversary and to celebrate their efforts promoting a healthy lifestyle for African American women.

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health; African American women have the highest rates of being overweight or obese compared to other groups in the United States, and four out of five African American women are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, African American women face wage earning discrepancies, higher rates of poverty, increased infant and maternal mortality, increased contact with the criminal justice system, and an overall lower quality of life; and

WHEREAS, BGR! wants to lower those statistics by creating a movement to lower the number of women with chronic diseases associated with an unhealthy diet and sedentary lifestyle which may contribute to higher infant and maternal mortality, less education, less wage earning, higher rates of poverty, and a lower quality of life for African American women; and

WHEREAS, a lot of excuses can be used to explain the negative statistics; however, BGR! believes the excuses will never solve the epidemic, so in 2009 BGR! was created in an effort to tackle the growing obesity epidemic in the African American women community and provide encouragement and resources to both new and veteran runners; and

WHEREAS, BGR!'s mission is to encourage African American women to make fitness and healthy living a priority; and

WHEREAS, since African American women represent seventeen percent of Louisiana's population with over five thousand women from the BGR!'s Baton Rouge Chapter and the New Orleans Chapter competing in 5Ks, 10Ks, half marathons, full marathons, ultra marathons, triathlons, and other rigorous running events; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is proud and does record for posterity BGR!'s accomplishments and extend best wishes for continued success as they continuously improve the physical and mental health of Louisiana's African American women by serving as examples of healthy ambassadors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend BlackGirlsRun on their fifteenth anniversary and celebrates their mission of creating healthy lifestyles for African American women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Lovett.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE