2024 Regular Session

24

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARVER AND KNOX

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prioritize
3	policies pertaining to suicide prevention and mental health education in its
4	rulemaking process as authorized by House Bill No. 320 of this 2024 Regular
5	Session should that bill become law.
6	WHEREAS, House Bill No. 320 of this 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature
7	repeals certain student instruction and teacher training requirements, authorizes the State
8	Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide for instruction and
9	training requirements by rule, and requires BESE to consider in the rule promulgation
10	process the specific statutory requirements that will be repealed if this bill becomes law; and
11	WHEREAS, one of the laws proposed to be repealed in House Bill No. 320, R.S.
12	17:437.1, requires training for teachers and other school employees on suicide prevention
13	that addresses increasing awareness of risk factors; how teachers should respond to
14	suspicious behavior or warning signs exhibited by students; how teachers should respond to
15	a crisis situation in which a student is an imminent danger to himself; policies and protocol
16	for communication with parents; counseling services available within the school for students
17	and their families related to suicide prevention; dissemination of information concerning
18	crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and mental health services in the community for
19	students and their families and school employees; and community organizations and
20	agencies for referral of students to health, mental health, substance abuse, and social support
21	services; and
22	WHEREAS, this law is part of what is known as the Jason Flatt Act, legislation that
23	the Louisiana Legislature passed along with numerous other state legislatures in the effort
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WHEREAS, another law proposed to be repealed by House Bill No. 320, R.S. 17:271.1, requires the governing authority of each public school to provide to students in grades kindergarten through twelve classroom instruction relative to mental health,

to provide for statewide suicide awareness and prevention in schools; and

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including, at minimum, information on preventive mental health measures; the relationship
and the difference between mental health and physical health; brain health, emotional health,
identifying trauma and stress, and the impact of trauma and stress on mental health and
physical health; resources and services available to assist people with mental health issues;
and the management of stress and anxiety; and

6 WHEREAS, many legislators have stated that they wish to remove certain 7 requirements previously enacted by the legislature and grant BESE the general authority to 8 provide for instructional and training requirements by rule; however, at the same time, many 9 legislators have expressed their belief in the importance of some of these requirements and 10 their desire for BESE to prioritize them in its rulemaking process, particularly as they pertain 11 to suicide prevention and mental health.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 13 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prioritize 14 policies pertaining to suicide prevention and mental health education in its rulemaking 15 process as authorized by House Bill No. 320 of this 2024 Regular Session should that bill 16 become law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board shall provide ample opportunity
for input from concerned citizens and advocacy groups, including but not limited to Peer
Initiative, in the rule promulgation process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state superintendent of education.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE