SLS 14RS-734 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY SENATOR GALLOT

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FEDERAL PROGRAMS. Requests the United States Department of Agriculture to develop tastier food options for the National School Lunch Program.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop tastier
3	food options for the National School Lunch Program.
4	WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal
5	program operating in over 100,000 public and nonprofit private schools and residential child
6	care institutions; and
7	WHEREAS, the program provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches
8	to more than thirty-one million children each school day; and
9	WHEREAS, school districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the
10	lunch program get cash subsidies and USDA foods for each meal and must serve lunches
11	that meet federal requirements; and
12	WHEREAS, in 2010 Congress passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act with the
13	goal of reducing soaring rates of childhood obesity through new nutrition standards for
14	schools, including more fruits and vegetables and less meat and grains; and
15	WHEREAS, since the standards went into effect in the 2011-2012 school year,
16	participation in the program has declined despite a jump in the number of students receiving
17	free meals; and
18	WHEREAS, according to a recent U.S. Government Accountability Office report,

1	local and state authorities told researchers the new standards have resulted in more waste,
2	higher food costs, challenges with menu planning and difficulties in sourcing products that
3	meet the federal portion and calorie requirements; and
4	WHEREAS, a major reason for the problems surrounding the new guidelines is a
5	growing lack of interest in the lunch program among students who believe that the meals are
6	not as tasty as the previous offerings; and
7	WHEREAS, the long-term benefits of the program far outweigh any of the initial
8	setbacks by improving the school nutrition for millions of children; and
9	WHEREAS, taste-testing feedback and increased student involvement in menu
10	planning will enable children to develop an appreciation for finding creative ways to make
11	menus tastier and healthier; and
12	WHEREAS, student participation will grow as students develop a taste for fruits and
13	vegetables and feel involved in the process of their menu selection; and
14	WHEREAS, farm visits, school gardens, taste tests, cooking competitions and
15	experiments are also fun ways to educate and excite students about eating healthier foods
16	in school; and
17	WHEREAS, improvements to the National School Lunch Program are an important
18	step in getting communities, school districts and students excited about healthier menu
19	options.
20	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21	urge and request the United States Department of Agriculture to develop tastier food options
22	for the National School Lunch Program.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24	United States Department of Agriculture.

DIGEST

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part

of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Johnson.

Gallot SCR No. 41

Requests the USDA to develop tastier food options for the National School Lunch Program.