

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes April 17, 2014, as HIV/AIDS Legislative Awareness Day at the state capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize April 17, 2014, as HIV/AIDS Legislative Awareness Day and to welcome the
3 members of the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network to the state capitol.

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network (LAAN) serves as a statewide
5 network to build the capacity of all HIV/AIDS community stakeholders and empower them
6 to strategically engage legislators to keep HIV/AIDS a priority; and

7 WHEREAS, the LAAN was established in August 2002 in response to excessive
8 delays in receiving executed grant contracts from the state and local governments, which
9 made it difficult to deliver services to clients and created concern for infected and affected
10 individuals; and

11 WHEREAS, at that time, the political and social climate of the state was not
12 sympathetic with the implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives and began a
13 campaign to reign in condom distribution; as a result, the coalition of executive directors of
14 HIV/AIDS advocacy groups saw the need to expand to include members of the affected
15 community to advocate for the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and to educate the
16 public officials about the epidemic; and

17 WHEREAS, with financial assistance from the pharmaceutical industry, the coalition
18 called a meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS,
19 to brainstorm on how to make the community at large aware of the rapid expansion of the
20 epidemic and its devastating effects; and

1 WHEREAS, the result of this meeting was the formation of the LAAN on August 28,
2 2002; it called for an organizational structure consisting of a steering committee of nineteen
3 members selected to represent each of the nine Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)
4 Regions; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2003, the first event of the newly formed LAAN was held at the state
6 capitol during the legislative session to educate legislators about the epidemic; the event was
7 done in conjunction with the Louisiana Commission on HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, a
8 legislatively mandated body with the mission of educating and advising the governor and
9 the legislature on issues relating to HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C; and

10 WHEREAS, this event became known as Legislative Awareness Day and has taken
11 place every year since 2003, with growing attendance; LAAN has actively monitored the
12 legislative sessions, to promote healthy legislation and caution against detrimental laws; and

13 WHEREAS, the purpose of this day is to educate legislators about the monetary and
14 health costs and the impact of HIV/AIDS to Louisiana, to challenge legislators to support
15 appropriate resource allocation for HIV/AIDS treatment and research, and to hold legislators
16 accountable for commitments that they make in support of HIV/AIDS legislation; and

17 WHEREAS, the LAAN seeks to provide strategic leadership in HIV/AIDS advocacy
18 that is powerful, effective, committed, and inclusive, and done with integrity using factual
19 information in order to motivate those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS and influence
20 those who make policy decisions; and

21 WHEREAS, the LAAN merits the highest measure of commendation for its service
22 to the citizens of Louisiana who have been diagnosed with or have been affected by
23 HIV/AIDS and for its commitment and steadfast dedication to eradicating HIV/AIDS.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 17, 2014, as HIV/AIDS Legislative
26 Awareness Day, does hereby welcome the members of the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy
27 Network to the state capitol, does hereby recognize the LAAN as vital to improving
28 advocacy for all people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS throughout Louisiana, does
29 hereby commend the members of the LAAN as they seek to change fundamental failings in
30 the relevant political and social systems in order to garner social justice for all people living

1 with HIV/AIDS in the state, and does hereby extend the very best wishes for continued
2 success to the leaders and members of the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
4 to the executive director of the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network.

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)]

Smith

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