

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY SENATOR CROWE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request Governor Bobby Jindal to appoint a cosmetologist or owner of a beauty shop or salon from the Vietnamese-American Community in Louisiana to serve on the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology at the occurrence of the next vacancy.

WHEREAS, the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, which ended the Vietnam War, prompted immigration from Vietnam with most Vietnamese leaving because they feared the promised communist reprisals; and

WHEREAS, during the spring of 1975, one hundred twenty-five thousand Vietnamese left South Vietnam, followed by approximately more than five thousand people in 1976-1977 and arrived in the United States to reception camps, by way of the Philippines and Guam, to be transferred to temporary housing at U.S. Army bases in the United States, including Camp Pendleton (California), Fort Chaffee (Arkansas), Eglin Air Force Base (Florida), and Fort Indiantown Gap (Pennsylvania); and

WHEREAS, additional immigration of the Vietnamese refugees began in 1978 and lasted until the mid-1980s due to the instability of Vietnam's politics and economy under the new communist government, with the communists seizing and nationalizing private businesses which led to widespread famine; and

WHEREAS, due to the hostility by the Communists against Christians, in particular Catholics, many left Vietnam and immigrated to the United States to find religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Vietnamese community are known for their family values, hard work and self sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, as part of the need to provide for job training to the new Vietnamese-American population, actress Tippi Hedren established a job training program to teach twenty Vietnamese women in the profession of manicurists; and

WHEREAS, since that time, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese-Americans have chosen to become manicurists as a career, many of whom reside in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is one of the states that require manicurists to be licensed as cosmetologists; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 37:572(B) requires each member of the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology to be appointed by the governor and be credentialed as a registered cosmetologist or an owner of a beauty shop or salon; and

WHEREAS, even though thousands of Louisiana's Vietnamese-Americans are licenced as cosmetologists or are owners of salons, no member of Louisiana's Vietnamese-American community has ever been appointed to the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Governor Bobby Jindal to appoint a cosmetologist or owner of a beauty shop or salon from the Vietnamese-American Community in Louisiana to serve on the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology at the occurrence of the next vacancy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Governor Bobby Jindal.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE