

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 216

BY REPRESENTATIVE KLECKLEY AND SENATOR ALARIO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals and the Louisiana Supreme Court drug court program.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court has been administering drug courts in the state since 2001, and drug court judges preside over these dockets in addition to their regular dockets without extra compensation; and

WHEREAS, drug courts have proven to be a cost effective alternative to incarceration for defendants who need substance abuse addiction treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court works with the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals (LADCP) to provide educational seminars and training opportunities for more than five hundred of Louisiana's drug court professionals; and

WHEREAS, the partnership between the LADCP and the Louisiana Supreme Court has made Louisiana's drug courts some of the best and most progressive in the country and the information on national best practices shared at staff training opportunities has drawn interest from drug court professionals in other states; and

WHEREAS, nearly five thousand individuals participated in Louisiana drug court programs in 2014, and more than eleven thousand five hundred participants have graduated from Louisiana drug courts since their inception in 1997; and

WHEREAS, statistical data prove that drug courts reduce crime; two years after graduation from Louisiana drug courts in 2012, more than ninety percent of the clients had no new criminal convictions, and national research has shown significant reductions in recidivism for participants in drug courts compared to those sentenced to conventional justice intervention; and

WHEREAS, for each dollar invested in drug courts, communities receive an average of three dollars and thirty-six cents in such benefits as fewer justice system costs through reduced recidivism; decreased victimization costs; decreased medical costs; and increased worker productivity; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana in 2014, fifty drug courts consisting of thirty adult, seventeen juvenile, and three family preservation courts operated in forty-two parishes, and of those participating in Louisiana drug courts, an estimated savings of ten million two hundred fifty thousand dollars is projected for medical and related expenses that will not need to be paid for the forty-one drug-free babies born to drug court clients in 2014; and

WHEREAS, successful drug court graduates obtain general education diplomas and employment and become contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court drug court program, in conjunction with the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals, has helped thousands of citizens and families in Louisiana and each of the judges and staff deserves a special measure of commendation for their efforts and good works.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Supreme Court drug court program and the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals for the fine work this collaboration has achieved in saving lives, reuniting families, and giving hope.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court and the president of the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE