

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVES BERTHELOT, HOFFMANN, AND POPE

PUBLIC HEALTH: Urges the office of behavioral health to raise awareness of addictive disorders involving abuse of inhalants

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the office of behavioral health of the Department of Health and
3 Hospitals to raise awareness of addictive disorders involving abuse of inhalants and
4 to make efforts to reduce the prevalence of inhalant abuse in this state.

5 WHEREAS, the effects of substance abuse disorders can be devastating for families
6 and communities; and

7 WHEREAS, the costs associated with substance abuse disorders are immense, and
8 include financial costs borne directly by the public in areas such as criminal justice and
9 public health, as well as the immeasurable human cost of lives that are lost too soon due to
10 these disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, less well-known than the harms caused by abuse of alcohol, prescription
12 medications, and illegal drugs are the dangers associated with the abuse of inhalants, which
13 are volatile substances that users inhale to induce mind-altering effects; and

14 WHEREAS, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National
15 Institutes of Health, although other abused drugs can be inhaled, the term "inhalant" is
16 reserved for a variety of substances including but not limited to solvents, aerosols, gases, and
17 nitrites that are rarely, if ever, taken by any other route of administration; and

18 WHEREAS, most inhalants are breathed in rapidly through the nose, mouth, or both
19 in a practice known as "huffing"; and

20 WHEREAS, inhalants produce a variety of serious short-term and long-term health
21 effects, and in some cases can be lethal, as high concentrations of these substances can cause

1 death from suffocation, and inhaling the highly concentrated chemicals in solvents or aerosol
2 sprays can also directly cause heart failure within minutes; and

3 WHEREAS, gas duster, also known as "canned air" or just "duster", which is
4 designed for cleaning of electronic equipment and other sensitive devices, can be particularly
5 addictive due to the euphoria users feel from the effects of the substance's main chemical
6 compound, difluoroethane (a refrigerant); however, while many users assume that the worst
7 effect of duster is the possibility of passing out for a short time after huffing the substance,
8 there is also a real danger of the user dying almost immediately from acute hypoxia
9 (displacement of oxygen from the lungs) or from cardiac arrest pursuant to actual freezing
10 of lung tissue; and

11 WHEREAS, studies indicate that fifteen to twenty percent of eighth graders - nearly
12 one in every five schoolchildren in this grade - have tried inhalants; and

13 WHEREAS, the problem of inhalant abuse is of special concern because most
14 substances that can be abused as inhalants are legal and widely available; and

15 WHEREAS, the National Institute on Drug Abuse cites early identification and
16 intervention as the best ways to stop inhalant abuse before it causes serious health
17 consequences or death; and

18 WHEREAS, due to the abundance of specialized expertise among staff in the office
19 of behavioral health of the Department of Health and Hospitals, this office is uniquely
20 qualified to lead an effort to raise awareness of the effects of addictive disorders such as
21 abuse of inhalants which can be lethal, but are insufficiently understood currently among the
22 general population of this state.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 urge and request the office of behavioral health of the Department of Health and Hospitals
25 to engage in any efforts to raise awareness of addictive disorders involving abuse of
26 inhalants as deemed necessary and proper by the secretary of the department and the
27 assistant secretary of the office.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health is hereby
29 authorized to conduct public awareness efforts designed to publicize the dangers of inhalants
30 and thereby reduce the prevalence of inhalant abuse in this state.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such public awareness efforts may include but
2 shall not be limited to public service announcements, information kits and brochures, and
3 provision of information concerning the dangers of inhalant abuse on an internet website.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution and its resulting public
5 awareness efforts shall be dedicated to the memory of the late Jordan Lambert Soileau of
6 Denham Springs, Louisiana.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
8 to the family of Jordan Lambert Soileau, the assistant secretary of the office of behavioral
9 health, and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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)]

HCR 24 Original

2016 Regular Session

Berthelot

Urges and requests the office of behavioral health of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to raise awareness of addictive disorders involving abuse of inhalants and to make efforts to reduce the prevalence of inhalant abuse.

Dedicates public awareness efforts resulting from this Resolution to the memory of the late Jordan Lambert Soileau of Denham Springs.