

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY SENATOR BARROW

SENATE. Commends the service and contributions of Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment (MY LIFE) and recognizes May 5, 2016, as Youth Day at the State Capitol.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the service and contributions of Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future
3 Empowerment (MY LIFE) and to recognize May 5, 2016, as MY LIFE Youth Day
4 at the State Capitol.

5 WHEREAS, involving youth in the process of designing and delivering behavioral
6 health services is a relatively new practice, but it is becoming more widely accepted
7 following support from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
8 (SAMHSA) and other experts; and

9 WHEREAS, professionals are recognizing that involving youth in the systems that
10 serve them can improve outcomes for youth, helping them develop relationships, acquire
11 new skills, improve behavior, build self-confidence, instill positive social supports and
12 cultivate leadership skills and they also have noted the value in providing opportunities for
13 youth to share their opinions and ideas to help shape policies, programs and services for their
14 own care and for the broader community – youth involvement not only benefits the
15 individual youth involved, but can also be very beneficial to programs and systems that serve
16 youth; and

17 WHEREAS, to address this need, MY LIFE, a free community youth program for
18 youth between the ages of 13 and 23 who have experience with mental health, substance

1 abuse, foster care-related and/or other challenges, was established in Arizona in 2008 by
2 Magellan Health; and

3 WHEREAS, through regular meetings, special events, presentations and
4 performances, MY LIFE members provide support for their peers; develop critical skills in
5 leadership, mentoring and mental health resiliency; act as advisors to Magellan and local
6 officials to help improve services and systems that serve youth; and provide a much-needed
7 voice in the community to combat the stigma associated with behavioral health issues; and

8 WHEREAS, there are currently fifteen MY LIFE groups in six states with more than
9 five hundred youth regularly involved; and

10 WHEREAS, in July 2012, MY LIFE Louisiana was established by Magellan
11 Behavioral Health in Louisiana with the support of the Louisiana Behavioral Health
12 Partnership and other organizations with MY LIFE groups being established in Baton Rouge
13 and Shreveport and since that time seventy-five monthly MY LIFE Louisiana meetings have
14 been held with an average of twenty-five youth attending each meeting; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2016, Magellan Health partnered with Ekhaya Youth Project to
16 enhance and expand MY LIFE in Louisiana, starting new MY LIFE groups in Lafayette and
17 New Orleans in April 2016, and groups serving other parts of the state soon to follow; and

18 WHEREAS, two previous MY LIFE Louisiana Youth Day at the Capitol events were
19 held May 8, 2014 and May 7, 2015 in Baton Rouge, celebrating National Children's Mental
20 Health Awareness Day with over six hundred people taking part in these uplifting events that
21 included a youth empowerment rally on the Capitol steps with inspirational speeches by MY
22 LIFE Youth and Louisiana state representatives and senators with the events being featured
23 on five television segments which aired on the local CBS affiliate the days of the event; and

24 WHEREAS, the third annual "MY LIFE Louisiana Youth Day at the Capitol" will
25 be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016, which is also National Children's Mental Health
26 Awareness Day; and

27 WHEREAS, youth from around the state will be participating in this event that will
28 provide youth a truly unique hands-on educational experience to learn about our state
29 government process first hand by visiting the State Capitol, interacting with state legislators
30 and participating in other activities, an event that is open to all Louisiana youth and will not

1 only be an educational and empowering experience for youth, but will also help them to
2 develop leadership skills, social skills, and greater self-confidence; and

3 WHEREAS, MY LIFE Louisiana programs and activities have flourished due to the
4 great support and partnerships of other youth serving organizations including Magellan
5 Health, Ekhyaya Youth Project, Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership, Family Youth and
6 Service Center, Goodwill of North Louisiana, Capitol Area Human Services, City Year,
7 Youth Oasis, Department of Juvenile Justice, Dream True, faith based groups and other
8 organizations.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
10 does hereby commend the service and contributions of MY LIFE (Magellan Youth Leaders
11 Inspiring Future Empowerment) and does hereby recognize Thursday, May 5, 2016, as MY
12 LIFE Youth Day at the State Capitol.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
14 MY LIFE.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

SR 68 Original

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