

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUTTER, BARROW, CHAMPAGNE, DOERGE, HILL, ROSALIND JONES, KATZ, LANDRY, NORTON, JANE SMITH, PATRICIA SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STIAES, AND THIERRY AND SENATORS BROOME, CHEEK, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, JACKSON, MOUNT, PETERSON, AND QUINN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Robelynn H. Abadie of Baton Rouge upon her receipt of a 2010 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Robelynn H. Abadie upon her receipt of a 2010 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation and to recognize her vital contributions to the citizens of Louisiana as an active and dedicated community servant; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie is the founder of Abadie Financial Services, LLC, an insurance and financial services agency specializing in corporate employee benefit plans; and

WHEREAS, as an agent and financial advisor for more than thirty-two years, Ms. Abadie works daily to protect families, help individuals plan for their futures, advise business owners of innovative benefit solutions, and help others preserve their financial dignity; and

WHEREAS, for the first fourteen years of her career, Ms. Abadie was a young, single woman with two children, and by drawing from her challenges, she has become a pioneer and advocate for women agents across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie was a founding member of the Women Life Underwriters Conference in 1979 and was the charter chairman of the first national women's study group for insurance professionals in 1986, which continues today as an annual event; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie also chaired the development of Friend to Friend, a national mentoring program for female agents that is copyrighted by the Women Life Underwriters

Conference and is financially underwritten by several of the largest life insurance companies in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie is a life and qualifying member of the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table, and she qualifies for the Top of the Table as the only woman from Louisiana who has the distinction of this honor; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Ms. Abadie was presented the Life Underwriter of the Year Award by the Baton Rouge Association of Life Underwriters, and in 1997, she was presented the Young Women's Christian Association Women of Achievement Entrepreneur of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the *Baton Rouge Business Report* honored Ms. Abadie with the Influential Woman in Business Award, and the Louisiana chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors selected Ms. Abadie as its Advisor of the Year for 2003; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie is a past president of the national Women in Insurance and Financial Services organization and was selected as its Woman of the Year recipient and Diamond Award winner in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie has served as a guest speaker on numerous occasions regarding industry issues and career development, and she was the first American invited to speak at the annual conference of the Japanese Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors in Kobe and Tokyo; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Ms. Abadie became the national president of the Association of Health Insurance Advisors, an advocacy association representing the interests of more than two hundred thousand National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors Federation affiliates; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie's tenure during the tumultuous health care reform efforts was highlighted by her representation of more than a half-million agents and advisors in Washington D.C. at the Health and Employee Benefits Alliance on Capitol Hill; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie served with great distinction as the chair of the Greater Baton Rouge Women's Council for two years, and she developed and instituted a new program and was the inaugural chair of "Women! A Week Long Celebration"; and

WHEREAS, "Women! A Week Long Celebration" is an event that serves women in the Greater Baton Rouge area by focusing on the needs of the community and by coordinating the resources to address those needs, and last year, event activities were attended by approximately twenty thousand women with more than one hundred forty activities of interest; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her professional life, Ms. Abadie devotes time to many philanthropic and community efforts, and she is a past president of the Planned Giving Council of Greater Baton Rouge and is becoming the president of the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation in Chicago in the fall of 2010; and

WHEREAS, in the immediate days after Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Abadie worked as a pediatric assistant at the Louisiana State University Pete Maravich Assembly Center, and she saw firsthand the needs of many families and offered her office as a clearinghouse for supplies and goods that were donated by agents from across the nation and distributed throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie also led coordination and fundraising efforts for the Renaissance Playground in Baker, Louisiana, in partnership with the Baton Rouge Rotary Club, Rosie O'Donnell's For All Kids Foundation, the city of Baker, Kids Around the World, and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie's impact has been noted both locally and globally with numerous commendations in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abadie has also been included in *Who's Who in Industry and Finance*, *Who's Who in American Women*, and *Who's Who of Emerging Leaders*, and she is a graduate of the Greater Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class of 1998 and a fellow of the Office of Government Programs at Louisiana State University, the Life Underwriting Training Council, and the St. Louis Institute of Music; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, this year, there were seven categories for the Women of Excellence Awards: Business, Culinary Arts, Education, Law and Justice, Volunteerism and Civic Involvement, Young High School Woman of Excellence, and Young Woman of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2010 Women of Excellence Awards are being recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of Excellence Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Robelynn H. Abadie received a 2010 Women of Excellence Award in the category of Business; and

WHEREAS, Robelynn H. Abadie merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for her dedication to excellence and her outstanding accomplishments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Robelynn H. Abadie of Baton Rouge upon her receipt of a 2010 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation, does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular contributions to the citizens of Louisiana as an active and dedicated community servant, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride that she brings to her family, friends, and community, the city of Baton Rouge, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Robelynn H. Abadie.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE