

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 85

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Wednesday, May 15, 2019, as School Choice Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, parents should have a wide range of high-quality school options to choose from, be it traditional public schools, public charter schools, private schools, or virtual learning programs; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, charter schools are tuition-free, public schools that are independently run by a nonprofit community board and that are authorized to operate by an elected board, either a local school board or the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, in exchange for increased accountability, charter schools are allowed increased autonomy; and

WHEREAS, during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, a total of 84,000 students were enrolled in one hundred fifty-six schools in twenty-five parishes; and

WHEREAS, private school choice programs give students, including those from low-income families and those with special needs, the opportunity to receive tuition to attend a private school that meets their needs; and

WHEREAS, since first launched in New Orleans in 2008 and expanded statewide in 2012, the publicly funded Louisiana Scholarship Program has helped thousands of Louisiana families receive the financial resources to choose a school that best fits their children; and

WHEREAS, during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, a total of 6,892 students were able to use the Louisiana Scholarship Program in a total of one hundred twenty-one schools within thirty-one school districts; and

WHEREAS, the average scholarship for a Louisiana Scholarship Program recipient was \$6,100; and

WHEREAS, the Tuition Donation Credit Program gives low-income Louisiana families the financial resources to choose a school that will best prepare their children for the future; and

WHEREAS, the Tuition Donation Credit Program provides tax credits to taxpayers who donate to tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations that provide students scholarships, and such organizations use these donations to provide scholarships to students in low-income families; and

WHEREAS, during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, a total of 2,018 students in one hundred seventy-four schools were able to use the Tuition Donation Credit Program; and

WHEREAS, the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities gives families of students with disabilities additional financial resources to attend participating schools that offer special needs programs; and

WHEREAS, during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, a total of three hundred ninety-one students in nineteen participating schools were able to use the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Wednesday, May 15, 2019, as School Choice Day at the state capitol and does hereby encourage all Louisianians to learn more about the school choice programs that benefit children and their families across the great state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana state president of the American Federation for Children.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE