

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To express support for the My Brother's Keeper initiative and to urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to monitor the findings and recommendations of the My Brother's Keeper Task Force as they pertain to elementary and secondary education and to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education relative to such findings and recommendations and their potential application in Louisiana not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public education system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2014, President Barack Obama established the My Brother's Keeper initiative, an interagency effort to measurably improve the expected educational and life outcomes for and address the persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color, including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the My Brother's Keeper initiative is aimed at unlocking the full potential of boys and young men of color, an effort that will not only benefit these individuals but all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the My Brother's Keeper Task Force has been established by the president for the purpose of developing a coordinated federal effort to improve significantly the expected life outcomes for boys and young men of color and their contributions to the nation's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the task force has been directed to focus on the following issues with respect to education, among others: access to early childhood supports, grade school literacy, and pathways to college and a career, including issues arising from school disciplinary action; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education monitor the findings and recommendations of the My Brother's Keeper Task Force with respect to elementary and secondary education and evaluate how they may be applied in Louisiana in order to improve the welfare of boys and young men of color in this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for the My Brother's Keeper initiative and does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to monitor the findings and recommendations of the My Brother's Keeper Task Force as they pertain to elementary and secondary education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby urge and request BESE to focus specifically on the task force's findings and recommendations with respect to education issues including the following:

- (1) Access to early childhood supports.
- (2) Grade school literacy.
- (3) Pathways to college and a career, including issues arising from school disciplinary action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby urge and request BESE to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education relative to the task force's findings and recommendations pertaining to elementary and secondary education and their potential application in Louisiana, including any recommendations for related legislation, not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES