2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 173

BY REPRESENTATIVES MELERINE, BRYANT, CARVER, CHASSION, EDMONSTON, FREIBERG, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, KNOX, MCMAHEN, MYERS, OWEN, SELDERS, TAYLOR, WALTERS, AND YOUNG

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study and make recommendations to school districts relative to automated graduation progress monitoring initiatives in the effort to enhance timely high school graduation.

WHEREAS, according to the Alliance for Excellent Education, high school dropouts exert a profound influence on a community's economic, social, and civic well-being, and substandard levels of academic accomplishment bring about substantial repercussions such as diminished earning potential, compromised health, and elevated incarceration rates; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's high school graduation rates persistently rank among the nation's lowest according to the U.S. Career Institute; and

WHEREAS, statewide, Louisiana's mean graduation rate stood at eighty-four percent during the 2020-2021 school year; graduation rates have been particularly low among students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged individuals, and those experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary duties of school counselors is to employ academic achievement methodologies and monitor and support a student's progression towards graduation; and

WHEREAS, according to the American School Counselor Association, the optimal caseload is two hundred fifty students per counselor, and during the 2022-2023 school year, Louisiana's caseload ratio was four hundred forty-one students per counselor; and

WHEREAS, emerging technologies have the potential to lighten the workload of school counselors by automatically monitoring the progress of individual students' high school credits and transcripts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to study and make recommendations to school districts relative to automated graduation progress monitoring initiatives in the effort to enhance timely high school graduation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES