

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVES HENRY BURNS AND BURRELL AND SENATOR
PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Reece Middleton for his outstanding service and accomplishments in the field of gambling addiction treatment management in Shreveport, Louisiana, as well as his pioneering contributions to the field of treatment of such addiction.

WHEREAS, Reece Middleton of Shreveport, Louisiana, has made significant contributions to having pathological gambling classified by the American Psychological Association as an addictive disorder and giving recognition to its enormous social, economic, and psychological implications as a contributing factor to domestic violence, bankruptcy, crime, depression, or even suicide; and

WHEREAS, cost-effective, quality assistance, treatment, and counseling for Louisianians who are affected by problem gambling are necessary and appropriate services to be provided by the professional community; and

WHEREAS, Reece Middleton, MA, LAC, CCGC, who holds extensive educational and professional credentials in all aspects of the areas of gambling addiction treatment management and counseling, has used his experience and training in numerous and varied positions throughout his long career including program director, employee assistance specialist, marketing director, referrals development, counselor, clinical director, and most notably as executive director of the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling and founder of the Center of Recovery (CORE), a residential facility located in Shreveport that provides treatment to address complex diagnostic issues, serious relapse factors, and medical psychiatric instability; and

WHEREAS, CORE's treatment protocol includes individual, group, and family-oriented counseling that is more individualized than other substance abuse counseling and that includes financial, budget, and remuneration planning and holistically addresses an addict's need for education in addition to addiction therapy; and

WHEREAS, CORE is operated in partnership with the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling and in conjunction with the Louisiana Problem Gambler Helpline, is funded by grants, individual donations, government grants, and contributions from the private sector, including the casino industry, and provides its counseling services free of charge to Louisiana residents; and

WHEREAS, CORE has become a model for other state and tribe-funded residential gambling disorder treatment facilities across the country and engenders a positive relationship with the state's casino industry, through educating gaming employees about pathological gambling and available treatment options, based on the industry's shared mission to help those problem gamblers who need help; and

WHEREAS, during his long career, Mr. Middleton has also served on the board of directors of the National Council on Problem Gambling; hosted the National Conference on Gambling Behavior in New Orleans, Louisiana; chaired the Louisiana State Conference on Gambling Behavior; and held memberships in the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers, and the National Council on Problem Gambling, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Middleton has made numerous contributions to the field in general by lending his expertise in presentations to numerous professional groups in this state and nationally, including the American Bar Association, National Conference on Gambling Behavior, Louisiana State District Attorney's Conference, National Center for Responsible Gaming-Las Vegas, Louisiana State Gaming Control Board, 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Directors, National Council of Legislators from Gaming States, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the 27th National Conference on Problem Gambling, among many others; and

WHEREAS, the achievement most deserving of recognition remains his founding of the CORE program, to which countless participants attribute their recovery from gambling addiction and the reversal of their life's course, including regaining their dignity, their familial connections, and their productivity within society, and through which many have themselves gone on to participate as advocates in the cause of helping other problem gamblers overcome addiction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Middleton, ever the consummate professional, although recently retired, remains available to his successors, who will continue the challenging work of administering the CORE program, in order to ensure a smooth transition that will continue to benefit those in need of its resources; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Middleton's cumulative endeavors are indicative of his lifelong dedication to defining and addressing the issue of gambling addiction on a personal and societal level for the betterment of the state of Louisiana and her citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reece Middleton for his unprecedented contributions to the recovery of numerous individual gambling addicts and to the field of study and training in all aspects of gambling addiction treatment management and counseling which have positively impacted the lives of so many Louisianians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Reece Middleton of Shreveport, Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES