

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 207

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board to ensure that there is not a reduction in the quality and nutritional value of meals prepared for students as the result of the outsourcing of the food services that are presently provided by school food service workers.

WHEREAS, food service workers play a critical role in ensuring that students have an opportunity for safe and healthy meals at school; and

WHEREAS, healthy foods support physical growth, brain development, resistance to disease, emotional stability, and the ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, academic performance and quality of life issues are affected by the choice and availability of nutritional foods in our schools; and

WHEREAS, the school food service workers in East Baton Rouge Parish are responsible for large scale meal planning and service to the children who attend the area schools; and

WHEREAS, the school food service workers in East Baton Rouge Parish have been hard-working, dedicated employees who have been diligent in the preparation of healthy meals for school children throughout the years in an effort to assist in the facilitation of learning; and

WHEREAS, East Baton Rouge Parish school food service workers are dedicated to their schools, students, and communities; and

WHEREAS, many of the school food service workers in East Baton Rouge Parish have strong ties to the community and enjoy working in the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, food service workers play a crucial role in encouraging students to understand the importance of eating a balanced diet; and

WHEREAS, food service workers responsibilities for food safety are equally important and include recognizing and responding to a growing number of food-borne illnesses and food allergies; understanding of the requirements for proper storage and preparation of food, whether pre-packaged, prepared elsewhere, or cooked on site; and knowledge about nutrition and how to incorporate it into the preparation of a meal; and

WHEREAS, school food service workers not only serve students breakfast and lunch but assist students in maintaining decorum and a safe environment while they occupy the school cafeterias; and

WHEREAS, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board has elected to layoff up to twenty-five workers and contract with outside vendors for the provision of school meals; and

WHEREAS, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall ensure that there is an appreciable cost savings achieved by the layoff and the decision to contract with outside vendors for the provision of school meals; and

WHEREAS, the school board shall ensure that the food served by the outside vendors is not of lesser quality, appeal, or nutritional value than that currently being served by school food service workers; and

WHEREAS, the outsourced company that handles the food service responsibilities should have training in nutrition, menu planning, and safety regulations; and

WHEREAS, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall ensure that the outside vendors prepare school meals that are responsive to the legislative findings in R.S. 17:197.1.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board to ensure that there is not a reduction in the quality and nutritional value of meals prepared for students as the result of the outsourcing of the food services that are presently provided by school food service workers.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES