

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATORS AMEDEE, NEVERS AND QUINN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Thursday, May 26, 2011, as "Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Day" in the state of Louisiana, in honor of Rey Wayne Gatlin.

WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome, also known as Abusive Head Trauma, is a term used to describe signs and symptoms resulting from violent shaking or shaking and impacting of the head of an infant or small child; and

WHEREAS, when a baby is shaken, his brain rotates within the skull cavity, injuring or destroying brain tissue and causing blood vessels to be torn and bleeding around the brain, and the act may cause retinal bleeding; and

WHEREAS, immediate consequences from shaking a baby may be compromised breathing, a decreased level of consciousness, seizures, the inability to swallow, and limp arms and legs; and

WHEREAS, some long-term consequences may be physical disabilities, blindness, hearing or speech impairment, cerebral palsy, and death; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 through Child Advocacy Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates were appointed to be representatives for one year old Rey Wayne Gatlin; and

WHEREAS, Rey Rey, as he was affectionately called, was born in Hammond, Louisiana, and was at one time a healthy and beautiful child with ocean blue eyes; and

WHEREAS, at the age of four weeks, while in the care of his parents, Rey Rey was violently shaken; and

WHEREAS, after obvious signs of injury, it was determined by staff members at Children's Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana, that he was suffering from the effects of Shaken Baby Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Rey Rey experienced significant developmental delays and deficiencies, and as he grew he descended into a vegetative state; and

WHEREAS, because of exceptional and unrelenting attention to his every need from his grandparents, Rey Rey lived for nine years; and

WHEREAS, according to his pediatrician, Rey Rey was a very special little boy who made a lasting impression on all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2008, Rey Rey died as a result of complications from Shaken Baby Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Child Advocacy Services is honoring Rey Rey's life by dedicating its new resource tool for preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome entitled "SBS:101 - Don't Shake Take a Break™" that offers education on the symptoms, triggers, coping techniques, and consequences associated with Abusive Head Trauma; and

WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome often results in permanent, irreparable brain damage and death to an infant and may result in more than one million dollars in medical costs to care for a child in its first year of life; and

WHEREAS, educational programs have been shown to raise awareness and provide critically important information about Shaken Baby Syndrome to parents, caregivers, daycare workers, child protection employees, law enforcement personnel, healthcare professionals and legal representatives; and

WHEREAS, since 1979, the month of April has been designated as "National Child Abuse Prevention Month" as an annual tradition that was initiated by former President Jimmy Carter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana, in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against child abuse, does hereby designate Thursday, May 26, 2011, as "Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Day" in Louisiana, in honor of Rey Wayne Gatlin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Child Advocacy Services.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES