

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 125

BY SENATOR PETERSON

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Children's Defense Fund for 40 years of service and recognizes May 23, 2013, as Children's Defense Fund Day.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Children's Defense Fund for 40 years of service and recognize Thursday,
3 May 23, 2013, as Children's Defense Fund Day.

4 WHEREAS, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is the foremost national proponent
5 of policies and programs that provide children with the resources they need to succeed; and

6 WHEREAS, well into their fourth decade, CDF is still leading the cause for children
7 and renewing its commitment to the organization for future endeavors; and

8 WHEREAS, CDF has worked relentlessly for 40 years to ensure a level playing field
9 across the nation for all children; and

10 WHEREAS, the CDF champions policies that will lift children out of poverty,
11 protect them from abuse and neglect, and ensure their access to health care, quality
12 education, and a moral and spiritual foundation; and

13 WHEREAS, the CDF grew out of the Civil Rights Movement under the leadership
14 of Marian Wright Edelman; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Edelman, the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar,
16 directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Edelman worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as counsel for

1 his Poor People's Campaign, and dedicated her early career to defending the civil liberties
2 of people struggling to overcome poverty and discrimination; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1969, Mrs. Edelman began the Washington Research Project, a
4 public interest law firm that monitored federal programs for low-income families, and she
5 founded the CDF in 1973; and

6 WHEREAS, on October 6, 2008, friends of the CDF from across the country and
7 from all walks of life came together to celebrate the accomplishments and rededication of
8 efforts for America's children at CDF's Thirty-Fifth Anniversary gala at the Kennedy Center
9 in Washington, D.C.; and

10 WHEREAS, the mission of the CDF's Leave No Child Behind program is to ensure
11 every child a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start in life and
12 successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities; and

13 WHEREAS, the CDF provides a strong, effective, and independent voice for all the
14 children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves; and

15 WHEREAS, the CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages
16 preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble, or suffer
17 family breakdown; and

18 WHEREAS, the CDF pays particular attention to the needs of poor and minority
19 children and those with disabilities and advocates to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline
20 across America to ensure that all children become successful and law-abiding adults; and

21 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to set aside a special day in recognition of the
22 outstanding work of the Children's Defense Fund.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby recognize Thursday, May 23, 2013, as Children's Defense Fund Day in the state
25 of Louisiana and does hereby commend the Children's Defense Fund for its manifold
26 contributions to the state and to children and families for more than three decades.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 Louisiana and Washington, D.C. offices of the Children's Defense Fund.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by J. Ashley Mitchell.

DIGEST

Peterson

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