

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 125

BY SENATOR PETERSON

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mrs. Edelman worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as counsel for his Poor People's Campaign, and dedicated her early career to defending the civil liberties of people struggling to overcome poverty and discrimination; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE