

2020 First Extraordinary Session
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 66
BY REPRESENTATIVE HUVAL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to work with President Donald J. Trump and his administration on providing an exemption to the immigration ban for teachers on a J-1 visa.

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, President Donald J. Trump, issued a continuation of Proclamation 10014 (Suspension of Entry of Immigrants Who Present a Risk to the United States Labor Market During the Economic Recovery Following the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak) which includes the suspension of the entry of any alien into the United States by way of a J-1 visa until December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Proclamation 10014 would prevent seventy-three teachers from around the world from receiving J-1 visas needed to teach in Louisiana schools, leaving over twenty-two hundred students across our state's school districts without a teacher or any foreign language instruction; and

WHEREAS, The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) was created in 1968 by Legislative Act 409 in order "to accomplish the development, utilization, and preservation of the French language as found in Louisiana for the cultural, economic, and touristic benefit of the state"; and

WHEREAS, French immersion education is an essential element in the restoration and development of Louisiana's primary heritage language; and

WHEREAS, French immersion students consistently achieve higher results on standardized tests than their non-immersion peers, regardless of socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, immersion students typically develop greater cognitive flexibility, demonstrating increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem-solving skills as well as an enhanced understanding of their primary language; and

WHEREAS, immersion students are more aware of and generally show more positive attitudes towards other cultures and an appreciation of other people; and

WHEREAS, granting J-1 visas to foreign teachers will not take jobs away from American teachers, as there is a shortage of qualified immersion teachers in our country, which is why Louisiana created international accords with France and Belgium to recruit foreign teachers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to work with President Donald J. Trump and his administration to maintain the integrity of language immersion in Louisiana by granting an exemption to the immigration ban for teachers on a J-1 visa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation at both their Louisiana district office and office in Washington, D.C.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES