

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 214

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Stephanie Desselle upon the occasion of her retirement from the Council for A Better Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Stephanie Desselle on her retirement from the Council for A Better Louisiana (CABL) and to honor her career as a passionate advocate for improvements in education; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie has had a distinguished career spanning more than three decades of support for civic engagement and dialogue on important issues facing the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, much of her career has focused on improving educational opportunities for all students, enhanced school and district accountability, school choice options, early childhood education, higher academic standards, effective teacher preparation, and improved outcomes for students at all levels; and

WHEREAS, she has served the students of our state in many capacities, including as a researcher with the state Department of Education, education policy advisor to former Governor Charles "Buddy" Roemer, an appointee to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and a nonprofit education advocate with CABL for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, she has played a major role in some of the state's most significant education policy reforms, including Louisiana's school and district accountability system, the creation of the Recovery School District, the transfer of failing public schools to the Recovery School District after Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana's first charter school law and the expansion of charter schools, the LA-4 preschool program for at-risk four-year-olds, the implementation of higher academic standards and quality assessments, school board and tenure reform, school letter grades, and the creation of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System; and

WHEREAS, her effective advocacy has led to policies that have achieved measurable improvements in student attainment in schools across Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, her tenacity, passion, and integrity are well known within the halls of the state capitol and among members of the legislative education committees, BESE, and the state Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, she has also been a leading voice in Louisiana for civic engagement, public discourse, and governmental ethics; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of these causes, she served with distinction for ten years as the director of CABL's prestigious Leadership Louisiana program which educates current and emerging community leaders about the most important issues facing the state; she remains respected and held in high esteem by hundreds of alumni who participated in the program under her leadership; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Stephanie's work is a lasting and positive impact upon the students of Louisiana and this state as a whole; and

WHEREAS, despite Stephanie's retirement, it is unlikely that she will cease coming to the state capitol to share her views on important issues or relinquish the relationships she has with so many legislators, staff members, and fellow advocates who continue to work for the betterment of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Stephanie Desselle upon her retirement from the Council for A Better Louisiana; does hereby express its appreciation for her many accomplishments in the policy arena; and does hereby congratulate her and extend best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Stephanie Desselle.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES