

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATORS CORTEZ, BARROW, BOUDREAUX AND FRED MILLS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the President of the United States to provide an exemption from the immigration ban and grant visas to foreign language teachers who have been recruited to teach in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, President Trump extended and expanded the suspension of certain visas through the end of this year, including J1 visas for French and other foreign language teachers who seek to teach in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1968, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) has led the state's efforts to support and grow Louisiana's francophone community through immersion programs, scholarships, and language-building programs; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Louisiana Department of Education authorized the teaching of French as a second language in public elementary and secondary schools and added additional foreign language programs through the years; and

WHEREAS, proficiency in a second language is part of an excellent education and studies show that foreign language immersion programs promote valuable analytical skills that go well beyond the acquisition of language; and

WHEREAS, foreign language immersion students are more aware of and generally show more positive attitudes toward other cultures; and

WHEREAS, foreign language immersion students are often exposed to languages that are represented in today's global economy, better preparing them for life beyond the classroom; and

WHEREAS, demand for foreign language instruction increases every year, and there is a shortage of qualified foreign language immersion teachers capable of fulfilling the need in Louisiana's public schools; and

WHEREAS, foreign language teachers are essential to the survival of the state's foreign language programs; and

WHEREAS, more than 2,200 students will be left without a foreign language teacher for the 2020-2021 school year, unless the teachers that CODOFIL and the state have recruited to teach in Louisiana for the coming school year are granted a visa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the President of the United States to provide an exemption from the immigration ban and grant visas to foreign language teachers who have been recruited to teach in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States and each member of Louisiana's congressional delegation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES