

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Tuesday, May 16, 2017, as School Choice Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and to encourage all Louisianians to learn more about school choice programs.

WHEREAS, parents should have a wide range of high quality education options, including traditional public schools, public charter schools, nonpublic schools, and virtual learning programs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's variety of school choice options give students, including those from low-income families and those with special needs, the opportunity to receive tuition to attend a nonpublic school that meets their needs; and

WHEREAS, the publicly funded Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program empowers low-income parents by providing them with the financial resources needed to send their children to the school of their choice; during Fiscal Year 2016-2017, six thousand six hundred ninety-five students participated in this program in one hundred twenty-three schools across thirty-one school districts, and the average scholarship per student was \$5,879; and

WHEREAS, since first launched in New Orleans in 2008 and expanded statewide in 2012, the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program has helped thousands of Louisiana families choose a school that best fits their children; and

WHEREAS, there is also a program that provides rebates to those donating to school tuition organizations, which use these donations to provide scholarships to students from low-income families; this program empowers such families by providing financial resources to choose the school that will best prepare their children for college and careers; during Fiscal Year 2016-2017, one thousand six hundred ninety-two students participated in this program, and the average scholarship for a program participant was \$4,137; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to set aside a special day in recognition of school choice in the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Tuesday, May 16, 2017, as School Choice Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and does hereby encourage all Louisianians to learn more about school choice programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana state director of the American Federation for Children.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE