

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARY CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To designate the month of September 2017 as Pain Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, more than one hundred million American adults suffer from chronic pain, including millions with debilitating conditions such as chronic lower back pain, fibromyalgia, and arthritis; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain costs America up to six hundred thirty-five billion dollars a year in added health costs and lost productivity, including billions of dollars in Medicaid costs; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain is a major public health problem and a hidden driver of rising health care costs; and

WHEREAS, significant barriers to adequate pain care exist, including regulatory, legal, institutional, financial, and geographical barriers, and as a result, millions of Americans settle for inadequate pain care; and

WHEREAS, pain and pain treatment represent a national challenge, and cultural modifications are needed to better prevent, assess, treat, and understand pain of all types; and

WHEREAS, important findings regarding chronic pain were published by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in its landmark report issued in 2011, "Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research"; and

WHEREAS, this report included a number of recommendations to improve pain care, education, and research; and

WHEREAS, this report found that significant savings could be achieved through better treatment of acute pain, such as a reduction in workers' compensation costs, an end to significant lost tax revenues, and a reduced burden of the societal costs of opioid abuse and misuse; and

WHEREAS, the report recommended that a comprehensive plan should be developed that would heighten awareness about pain and its health consequences, emphasize the prevention of pain, improve the assessment of pain and plans for management of that pain, use public health strategies to educate the public, and address the disparities in the experience of pain among Americans; and

WHEREAS, by designating a Pain Awareness Month in the state, the Louisiana House of Representatives is taking a positive step in heightening awareness of pain, particularly chronic pain, and its health consequences; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain is a serious health problem and the appropriate agencies of state government should examine ways state agencies could improve the health and productivity of its citizens and reduce personal and government health care expenditures by implementing the recommendations of the report issued by the Institute of Medicine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the month of September 2017 as Pain Awareness Month in Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES