

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY REPRESENTATIVES TERRY LANDRY AND PIERRE AND SENATORS
BOUDREAUX AND MILLS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend SMILE Community Action Agency for their outstanding service in south central Louisiana, as the organization celebrates its fiftieth anniversary of helping people and changing lives, and to recognize May 2018 as Community Action Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, SMILE Community Action Agency serves as a clearinghouse for community needs in Iberia, Lafayette, and St. Martin parishes, with a focus on health, education, economic stability, and the betterment of all disadvantaged individuals, children, and families they encounter; and

WHEREAS, despite its rich traditions and the unique culture, the tri-parish region is home to disadvantaged populations; the percentage of children under age eighteen who are living in poverty in each parish is: twenty-seven percent in St. Martin Parish, twenty-nine percent in Iberia Parish, and twenty percent in Lafayette Parish; these children and their families are among those that SMILE reaches out to daily; and

WHEREAS, Community Action emerged from the heart of President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1964 proclamation of America's "War on Poverty" where battles must be won in the field, in every private home, in every public office, from the courthouse to the White House; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies across the U.S. have put a human face on poverty for fifty-four years by advocating for limited-income citizens, so that they may enter the middle class and reach for the American dream, replacing their despair with opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Community Action builds and promotes economic stability as an essential aspect of enabling and enhancing stronger communities, which in turn promotes self-sufficiency, ensuring that all Americans are able to live with dignity; and

WHEREAS, Community Action has enhanced the lives of millions of people across the U.S. by providing essential, life-changing services and opportunities such as affordable housing, health care, energy assistance, and natural disaster relief and recovery; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the hard work and dedication of SMILE Community Action Agency since its incorporation on October 29, 1968, the Legislature of Louisiana extends sincere commendation and appreciation for all it does for the citizens of south central Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend SMILE Community Action Agency in south central Louisiana upon its fiftieth anniversary; does hereby record for posterity the tremendous positive impacts the agency's work has had on all whose lives it has touched; and does hereby recognize May 2018 as Community Action Month in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Christopher Williams, chief executive officer of SMILE Community Action Agency.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE