

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR CLOUD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate April 21-27, 2024, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Louisiana, and to honor Jody Plauche for his exceptional contributions to the field of violence prevention and his unwavering commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of crime victims.

WHEREAS, being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can be a frightening and confusing experience; and

WHEREAS, progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their own experiences into a force for positive change, ensuring that others can receive justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victim service providers, there is a growing array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, according to the Tulane University-Louisiana Violence Experiences Survey (2023), two-fifths of adults in Louisiana (41%) have experienced sexual violence or harassment in their lifetime and one in nine (11%) have experienced sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, according to the survey, approximately 90% of people who experienced violence never formally reported these assaults, and among those experiencing violence, most reported negative consequences, including feeling anxiety or depression, suicidality, or missing work or school; and

WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims in Louisiana are codified at R.S 46:1844, which provides the right to reasonable notice and to be present and heard during all critical stages of pre- and post-conviction proceedings, including: the right to confer with the prosecution prior to final disposition of the case; the right to refuse to be interviewed by the accused or a representative of the accused; the right to review and comment on any

presentence report; the right to a reasonably prompt conclusion of the case; the right to seek restitution; and the right to be informed upon the release from custody or the escape of the accused or the offender; and

WHEREAS, honoring the rights of crime victims, including the right to be heard and the right to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet victims' needs helps to rebuild their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and

WHEREAS, individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding, and support of their communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted, and coordinated outreach; and

WHEREAS, identifying, reaching, and serving all victims of crime, especially those from groups that often have less access to healing services and avenues to justice is essential; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost, and that new ground is broken to gain greater justice and healing for all victims; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, Jody Plauche, a Baton Rouge native, experienced a harrowing abduction in 1984, which sparked his enduring dedication to advocacy for crime victims; and

WHEREAS, a proud graduate of Louisiana State University, he actively contributes to violence prevention efforts and served on the executive board for Men Against Violence; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, Jody has committed his career to the field of violence prevention, notably at the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, where he served as a sexual assault counselor, prevention educator, and Supervisor of Community Education Programs; and

WHEREAS, recognized as Survivor/Activist of the Year by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in 2004, his impact extends nationally, having attended the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children and shared his story on various television shows; and

WHEREAS, Jody, the esteemed author of "Why Gary Why? The Jody Plauche Story", continues to make a profound difference, currently serving on the board of TentMakers Of Louisiana, furthering his commitment to community initiatives; and

WHEREAS, through his tireless advocacy and leadership, Jody Plauche remains a beacon of hope and change, inspiring individuals nationwide with his resilience and dedication to supporting victims of crime.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 21-27, 2024, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Louisiana, and further honors Jody Plauche during National Crime Victims' Rights Week for his exceptional contributions to the field of violence prevention and his unwavering commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of crime victims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jody Plauche, as a token of our sincere appreciation and gratitude for his invaluable service to our community and nation, and to The Tentmakers of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES