

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 123

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request law enforcement agencies in Louisiana to use restorative approaches in their efforts to keep the communities they serve safe and healthy.

WHEREAS, restorative justice is a method of justice centered around victims and survivors to address harm and wrongdoing; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice acknowledges that harm and wrongdoing results in affirmative obligations to victims and survivors that emphasize accountability and responsibility of the wrongdoer who caused the harm; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice requires responsible parties to understand the full consequences of their wrongdoing, and that they have an obligation to repair the harm they caused, to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice promotes engagement and participation by those who were harmed and those who caused the harm through a facilitated conversation that is preceded by in-depth screening and preparation that results in an agreement about how the harm will be repaired; and

WHEREAS, restorative processes can be used as an alternative to, or in conjunction with, the traditional justice system; and

WHEREAS, harmed parties who participate only in the traditional justice process often report feeling unsatisfied, ignored, or revictimized; and

WHEREAS, many harmed parties who participate in restorative processes report feelings of empowerment in the justice process, emotional healing, and less anxiety, distress, and sadness; and

WHEREAS, compared to offenders who are punished through the traditional legal system, responsible parties participating in restorative processes report lower rates of recidivism, while accepting ownership and responsibility for their actions; and

WHEREAS, after participating in a restorative process, all parties often perceive their communities as being safer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that law enforcement agencies in this state, including but not limited to police departments, sheriff's offices, district attorneys' offices, and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, employ the proven practices of restorative justice to create safer, healthier, and happier communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, the president of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, and the president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE