

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 177

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to examine the prevalence of injury and death resulting from unintentional shootings and suicides by minor children in Louisiana, to study the effectiveness of Child Access Prevention laws in other states, and to make recommendations based on their findings related to the development and implementation of a Child Access Prevention law in this state.

WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unintentional firearm injury deaths are a leading cause of death among children; and

WHEREAS, unsecure firearm storage practices are associated with risk for unintentional and intentional firearm injuries and deaths among children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, most unintentional firearm injuries among children occur within the home, with firearms predominantly originating in the child's home; and

WHEREAS, data from the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System from 2004 to 2015 showed that, among firearm suicides by children ages 10 through 18 for which storage practices could be identified, more than three-fourths involved the use of a gun that had been stored loaded and unlocked; and

WHEREAS, many states have Child Access Prevention laws that are designed to prevent children from accessing firearms in an effort to reduce unintentional injuries and deaths; and

WHEREAS, these laws require that loaded firearms in the home be stored in a locked box container or secured with a trigger lock if the owner knows or should reasonably know that a child could gain access to the firearm; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana does not have a Child Access Prevention law, but has one of the highest rates of unintentional shootings by children in the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Health to examine the prevalence of injury and death resulting from unintentional shootings and suicides by minor children in Louisiana, to study the effectiveness of Child Access Prevention laws in other states, and to make recommendations based on their findings related to the development and implementation of a Child Access Prevention law in this state.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE