

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Chief Judge Ree Casey Jones and Caddo Juvenile Court on the achievements of S.T.A.R. Court, Louisiana's first specialized court against human trafficking.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Chief Judge Ree Casey Jones, the Caddo Juvenile Court, and the Juvenile Probation Department for their efforts to combat human trafficking in the parish; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Jones, the Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, and the Juvenile Probation Department have worked with the parish's community partners to develop innovative interventions for youth who are at high risk for human trafficking and victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, these efforts began in 2013 with the development of the Caddo-Bossier Community Response Team; the multi-disciplinary team calls on community partners to meet every two weeks to develop trauma-informed and comprehensive service plans for high-risk youth and victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo-Bossier Community Response Team's approach has been replicated in parishes across Louisiana; in 2015, the Specialized Intensive Probation Unit was implemented with two highly-trained and skilled probation officers who supervise a caseload of high-risk and confirmed victims who are involved in the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, S.T.A.R. Court was introduced in Caddo Parish on March 1, 2019; the court is Louisiana's first trafficking-specific specialized court; the court uses a phase system and incentives to encourage participants to follow the conditions of probation, make better choices, and participate in long-term treatment, support, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, S.T.A.R. Court's specialized response system is most deserving of the highest recognition for providing unique opportunities, treatment, and support for Caddo Parish youth and the community at large.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Chief Judge Ree Casey Jones and Caddo Juvenile Court on the achievements of Louisiana's first S.T.A.R. Court against human trafficking and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for their efforts to support and protect Caddo Parish at-risk youth.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES