

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 272

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile justice, Louisiana State University, the Pelican Institute, Casey Family Programs, and the Pelican Center for Children and Families to study and report their findings on the intersection of parental discipline, allegations of abuse, and the impact of disciplinary avoidance on juvenile delinquency since 2015.

WHEREAS, in 2015, the legislature enacted Act No. 260, which added Civil Code Article 228 to acknowledge that parents have the natural right and the solemn obligation to correct and discipline their children in a reasonable manner; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 14:18 specifically provides a legal justification for the use of reasonable discipline of minors by their parents, distinguishing such actions from criminal conduct; and

WHEREAS, a critical distinction exists between reasonable corporal discipline intended to instill character and accountability and acts of domestic abuse or cruelty to juveniles which cause unjustifiable pain or suffering; and

WHEREAS, there is growing concern regarding reports of minors who circumvent or undermine reasonable parental authority by threatening to initiate contact with law enforcement or child protective services under the guise of reporting abuse; and

WHEREAS, the subversion of parental authority may contribute to a lack of behavioral boundaries, potentially leading to an increase in juvenile delinquency and subsequent adjudication or conviction for serious offenses; and

WHEREAS, the makeup of the Louisiana household, whether led by a single parent or two parents, serves as the primary environment for child development and the first line of defense against criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, the legislature requires comprehensive data to understand how often parents are facing arrests or criminal consequences for discipline that is ultimately found to be reasonable, and whether a correlation exists between the breakdown of parental discipline and the escalation of juvenile criminal conduct.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile justice, Louisiana State University, the Pelican Institute, Casey Family Programs, and the Pelican Center for Children and Families to study and report their findings on the intersection of parental discipline, allegations of abuse, and the impact of disciplinary avoidance on juvenile delinquency since 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the entities provided in this Resolution shall identify and study data regarding the following:

(1) The approximate number of investigations and arrests initiated against parents for the crime of cruelty to juveniles when the underlying conduct was claimed as parental discipline.

(2) The frequency of cases in which a minor's threat or successful contact to law enforcement resulted in the cessation of parental discipline.

(3) To the extent practicable, a review of the disciplinary history of juveniles currently adjudicated delinquent or prosecuted as adults to determine if prior threats against parents hindered early behavioral intervention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of this study be reported to the Louisiana House of Representatives no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2027 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each of the entities provided for in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution be submitted to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES