

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for its efforts in establishing successful and replicable models of juvenile justice reform in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in 2005, Louisiana was selected by the MacArthur Foundation to participate in the Models for Change initiative, which aims to accelerate the pace of juvenile justice reform in targeted states; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Laurie Garduque, Ph.D., Director for Justice Reform, the MacArthur Foundation has provided \$11 million in grant funding and consultants to assist in making juvenile justice reform a true priority for the state; and

WHEREAS, through the investment made by the MacArthur Foundation, real reforms have been made that benefit youth, such as expanding alternatives to formal processing and secure confinement, increasing access to evidence-based practices, and reducing disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, the MacArthur Foundation assisted in the establishment of best practice models for status offenders, model juvenile drug courts, model diversion programs, and a growth of evidence-based community services, all of which this state can be proud of; and

WHEREAS, through the investments made by the MacArthur Foundation, Louisiana has developed model standards for detention centers and requires licensing for all detention centers; and

WHEREAS, through the investments made by the MacArthur Foundation, model programs have been developed on a local level in parishes such as Caddo, Rapides, Calcasieu, St. Martin, St. Mary, Iberia, and Jefferson, which can and should be replicated on a statewide basis; and

WHEREAS, through the grants made available by the MacArthur Foundation, the legislature received a report this year from the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission which provides key recommendations for continued reform of the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, in large part due to the investments made by the MacArthur Foundation, Louisiana is creating a more rehabilitative juvenile justice system that is treatment-focused, community-based, and cost-effective.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for its efforts in establishing successful and replicable models of juvenile justice reform in Louisiana and does hereby express enduring gratitude for the investments made in the ongoing reform of the Louisiana juvenile justice system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Laurie Garduque, Ph.D., Director for Justice Reform for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE