

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Tuesday, April 28, 2015, as "Healthy Start Day" at the Louisiana Senate, and commend the Family Tree Healthy Start Program for its exceptional achievements and manifold contributions.

WHEREAS, the mission of the Family Tree Information, Education and Counseling Center is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families over the life course through education, counseling, and information services that are delivered in a professional, accessible, and compassionate manner; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend the Family Tree Healthy Start Program for its efforts in coordinating a culturally sensitive and accessible network of care to the women in the parishes of Lafayette, Iberville, St. Martin, Evangeline, and Acadia; and

WHEREAS, the Family Tree Healthy Start Program acknowledges the vision of the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which began funding fifteen Healthy Start Initiatives in 1991 and which currently has over one hundred five Healthy Start projects in thirty-nine states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Start Program Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative is a valuable resource and intervention program made available to eliminate disparities in perinatal health resulting from multiple factors including race, education, income, disability, or living in a rural area and to reduce negative birth outcomes that directly affect the infant mortality rate by providing home visitation, case management, outreach, health education, and depression screening; and

WHEREAS, this free program, which is not based upon income, targets African-American women, but services are provided to any eligible member residing in the five Acadiana parishes; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Family Tree Healthy Start program are to improve the overall health of program participants in an effort to reduce negative birth outcomes and increase awareness of negative birth outcomes by providing health education to providers, general populations, and community participants and conducting community events.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Tuesday, April 28, 2015, as "Healthy Start Day" at the Louisiana Senate, does hereby commend the Family Tree Healthy Start Program for its exceptional achievements and manifold contributions, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation to the organization and its members for the tremendous honor and pride that they bring to their local communities, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE