

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATORS GATTI AND PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVES HORTON AND  
MIKE JOHNSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize the Steve Hoyle Intensive Substance Abuse Program for its success in shortening the sentences of certain offenders, while better preparing those offenders to reintegrate into their families and communities without a return to substance abuse and incarceration.

WHEREAS, the Steve Hoyle Intensive Substance Abuse Program (SHISAP) and the accompanying Family Recovery Program have received a prestigious award from the Ash Center for Democratic Government and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, as part of its Bright Ideas program; and

WHEREAS, this award recognizes the efforts and successes of the Louisiana programs in treating and supporting offenders and their families; and

WHEREAS, the tandem concerns of substance abuse among offenders and the high percentage of young men in the jails and prisons of Louisiana are the focus of SHISAP and its partner program to strengthen family ties for those incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, the programs are located in the Bossier Medium Security Facility in Bossier Parish and are conducted in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections; and

WHEREAS, SHISAP and the Family Recovery Program provide a therapeutic approach to house, treat, educate, and reorient offenders who suffer from substance abuse issues with the purpose of shortening their incarceration and of offering an improved chance of remaining outside the criminal justice system through a seamless return to family life; and

WHEREAS, the Family Recovery Program uses the curricula of Strengthening Families and contains three primary components: family day, life lessons for families, and reading to our children; and

WHEREAS, this emphasis on family relationships is based on studies that have shown that the stronger and more frequently the relationship between offenders and their children is maintained during the period of incarceration, the smoother the parent's reintegration into the family and society, in general, will be; and

WHEREAS, the Steve Hoyle program offers a day for a day credit against time served for those offenders who choose to participate reducing their incarceration stay and bettering their chances of not becoming a repeat offender; and

WHEREAS, the statistics indicate that SHISAP in Bossier has awarded more than five hundred thousand days of good time credit, which has saved the state of Louisiana nearly thirteen million dollars in the period from January 2013 until December 31, 2015; and

WHEREAS, certain other offenders who are eligible to receive one year of credit for ninety days of treatment have earned nearly fifty thousand days of credit and have saved the state more than one million dollars in the January 2013 through December 31, 2015 time period; and

WHEREAS, those who have successfully participated in the SHISAP Family Recovery Program, which awards seventy-five days of credit upon completion, have been awarded more than fifty-five thousand days of credit, saving the state more than fifteen million dollars during the same January 2013 through December 31, 2015 period; and

WHEREAS, since the program moved to Bossier in July 2012, fifteen hundred offenders have graduated from the nine-month program and an additional six hundred have graduated from the six-month program; and

WHEREAS, numerous people are responsible for establishing and supporting this program, including Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, James LeBlanc; Warden of the David Wade Correctional Center, Jerry Goodwin; Medical/Mental Health Director for the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Raman Singh, MD; Bossier Parish Sheriff Julian Whittington; Warden of Care and Treatment for the Bossier facility, Dr. Susan Tucker; and Mental Health Director for the Bossier facility, Jason Burns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize the Steve Hoyle Intensive Substance Abuse Program for its success in shortening the sentences of certain offenders, while better preparing those offenders to

reintegrate into their families and communities without a return to substance abuse and incarceration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Susan Tucker, Warden of Care and Treatment at the Bossier Medium Security Facility.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES