

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARY CARTER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates September 2017 as Pain Awareness Month  
in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate the month of September 2017 as Pain Awareness Month in Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, more than one hundred million American adults suffer from chronic  
4 pain, including millions with debilitating conditions such as chronic lower back pain,  
5 fibromyalgia, and arthritis; and

6 WHEREAS, chronic pain costs America up to six hundred thirty-five billion dollars  
7 a year in added health costs and lost productivity, including billions of dollars in Medicaid  
8 costs; and

9 WHEREAS, chronic pain is a major public health problem and a hidden driver of  
10 rising health care costs; and

11 WHEREAS, significant barriers to adequate pain care exist, including regulatory,  
12 legal, institutional, financial, and geographical barriers, and as a result, millions of  
13 Americans settle for inadequate pain care; and

14 WHEREAS, pain and pain treatment represent a national challenge, and cultural  
15 modifications are needed to better prevent, assess, treat, and understand pain of all types; and

16 WHEREAS, important findings regarding chronic pain were published by the  
17 Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in its landmark report issued in  
18 2011, "Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care,  
19 Education, and Research"; and

20 WHEREAS, this report included a number of recommendations to improve pain care,  
21 education, and research; and

1           WHEREAS, this report found that significant savings could be achieved through  
2 better treatment of acute pain, such as a reduction in workers' compensation costs, an end  
3 to significant lost tax revenues, and a reduced burden of the societal costs of opioid abuse  
4 and misuse; and

5           WHEREAS, the report recommended that a comprehensive plan should be developed  
6 that would heighten awareness about pain and its health consequences, emphasize the  
7 prevention of pain, improve the assessment of pain and plans for management of that pain,  
8 use public health strategies to educate the public, and address the disparities in the  
9 experience of pain among Americans; and

10           WHEREAS, by designating a Pain Awareness Month in the state, the Louisiana  
11 House of Representatives is taking a positive step in heightening awareness of pain,  
12 particularly chronic pain, and its health consequences; and

13           WHEREAS, chronic pain is a serious health problem and the appropriate agencies  
14 of state government should examine ways state agencies could improve the health and  
15 productivity of its citizens and reduce personal and government health care expenditures by  
16 implementing the recommendations of the report issued by the Institute of Medicine.

17           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the month of September 2017 as Pain  
19 Awareness Month in Louisiana.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 219 Original

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