

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATOR HEWITT AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BACALA, BEAULLIEU, CARRIER, CORMIER, COX, DESHOTEL, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, GAROFALO, HORTON, ILLG, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KERNER, MCCORMICK, MCKNIGHT, MIGUEZ, MINCEY, MOORE, CHARLES OWEN, PRESSLY, RISER, ST. BLANC, THOMAS, THOMPSON, WHEAT AND WRIGHT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize May 2020 as Louisiana Abortion Recovery Awareness Month and commend

Louisiana Abortion Recovery Alliance, Abortion Recovery Helpline of Louisiana, Rachel's Vineyard Louisiana, Pregnancy Resource Centers of Louisiana, International Abortion Recovery Helpline, Speak Hope, Life Freedom Alliance, Operation Outcry Louisiana, and Silent No More for their support and service to women suffering from abortion-related trauma.

WHEREAS, the purpose of Abortion Recovery Awareness Month is to encourage and promote healing opportunities and to enlighten society to the physical and emotional suffering and aftermath of abortion on women and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is the highest priority of the legislature to protect women and future generations from known dangers that impact their lifelong health and wholeness; and

WHEREAS, the abortion industry fails to adequately provide women with full disclosure of known physical, psychological, and emotional risks and complications of abortion procedures that can affect a woman for a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, science confirms there are potential psychological effects, including depression, anxiety, substance abuse, addictions, relationship struggles, self-destructive behaviors, and suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, the evidence that there is a causal connection between abortion and mental and emotional injuries is supported by three independent sources of evidence: (1) the testimony of women themselves who testified as to their injuries, (2) mental health

professionals who have successfully diagnosed and treated women after an abortion, and (3) statistically validated medical studies controlling for a large number of confounding factors which have been published in peer reviewed journals, both nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, as it relates to the testimony of women who have suffered mental and emotional injuries after an abortion, a total of one hundred and eighty women from all over the United States filed affidavits in the court case, *Gonzales v. Carhart*, 550 U.S. 124, (2007), informing the United States Supreme Court justices of the negative physical and psychological suffering that accompanied their prior abortions; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court recognized abortion-related trauma and upheld the federal partial birth abortion ban in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, 550 U.S. at 159, opining that "(r)espect for human life finds an ultimate expression in the bond of love the mother has for her child ... it seems unexceptionable to conclude some women come to regret their choice to abort the infant life they once created and sustained" and "(s)evere depression and loss of esteem can follow"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court, in reaching its decision in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, was influenced by and referred to an amicus brief and one hundred and eighty affidavits filed by women who had suffered from abortion-related trauma; particularly, the court found persuasive the affidavit filed by Sandra Cano, the plaintiff in *Doe v. Bolton*, 410 U.S. 179 (1973), who asked the high court in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, to effectively overturn her earlier decision in *Doe v. Bolton* due to the profound emotional injuries that Cano suffered; and

WHEREAS, in upholding the Louisiana Unsafe Abortion Protection Act (Act 620 of the 2014 Regular Session), the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit found persuasive the testimony of Cynthia Collins, a woman who suffered hemorrhaging from an emergency dilation and curettage procedure and emotional trauma from abortion; and

WHEREAS, Norma McCorvey, who was the plaintiff "Roe" in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), subsequently stated that she regretted her participation in that court case and greatly desired to protect women from the emotional and physical harms of abortion; and

WHEREAS, the legislature reconfirms its commitment to the Louisiana Safe Haven Law, by which a woman may safely and confidentially leave her unwanted child in a safe haven facility and thereby avoid the pain of abortion; and

WHEREAS, it is important and helpful to the people of our great state, that the legislature recognizes May as Abortion Recovery Awareness Month, so that women who have been harmed by abortion can come forth to receive the help and healing they need and others can be warned of the risks and pain of abortion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize May 2020 as Louisiana Abortion Recovery Awareness Month for the state of Louisiana and the citizens of our great state, and citizens everywhere are encouraged to discuss, evaluate and promote awareness of the harms and risks of abortion, and also to promote healing and hope to those harmed by abortion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Abortion Recovery Alliance, Abortion Recovery Helpline of Louisiana, Rachel's Vineyard Louisiana, Pregnancy Resource Centers of Louisiana, International Abortion Recovery Helpline, Speak Hope, Life Freedom Alliance, Operation Outcry Louisiana, and Silent No More Awareness Louisiana are hereby commended for their support and service to women suffering from abortion-related trauma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Louisiana Abortion Recovery Alliance, Abortion Recovery Helpline of Louisiana, Rachel's Vineyard Louisiana, Pregnancy Resource Centers of Louisiana, International Abortion Recovery Helpline, Speak Hope, Life Freedom Alliance, Operation Outcry Louisiana, and Silent No More Awareness Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES