SLS 24RS-1706 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR CLOUD

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes April 21-27, 2024, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To designate April 21-27, 2024, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Louisiana, and
3	to honor Jody Plauche for his exceptional contributions to the field of violence
4	prevention and his unwavering commitment to advocating for the rights and
5	well-being of crime victims.
6	WHEREAS, being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can
7	be a frightening and confusing experience; and
8	WHEREAS, progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made
9	through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their own
10	experiences into a force for positive change, ensuring that others can receive justice,
11	meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law; and
12	WHEREAS, since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and through the
13	dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victim service providers, there is a growing
14	array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones; and
15	WHEREAS, according to the Tulane University-Louisiana Violence Experiences
16	Survey (2023), two-fifths of adults in Louisiana (41%) have experienced sexual violence or
17	harassment in their lifetime and one in nine (11%) have experienced sexual assault; and
18	WHEREAS, according to the survey, approximately 90% of people who experienced

1	violence never formally reported these assaults, and among those experiencing violence,
2	most reported negative consequences, including feeling anxiety or depression, suicidality,
3	or missing work or school; and
4	WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims in Louisiana are codified at R.S 46:1844,
5	which provides the right to reasonable notice and to be present and heard during all critical
6	stages of pre- and post-conviction proceedings, including: the right to confer with the
7	prosecution prior to final disposition of the case; the right to refuse to be interviewed by the
8	accused or a representative of the accused; the right to review and comment on any
9	presentence report; the right to a reasonably prompt conclusion of the case; the right to seek
10	restitution; and the right to be informed upon the release from custody or the escape of the
11	accused or the offender; and
12	WHEREAS, honoring the rights of crime victims, including the right to be heard and
13	the right to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet victims' needs
14	helps to rebuild their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and
15	WHEREAS, individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding, and support of their
16	communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted, and coordinated outreach; and
17	WHEREAS, identifying, reaching, and serving all victims of crime, especially those
18	from groups that often have less access to healing services and avenues to justice is essential;
19	and
20	WHEREAS, Louisiana's continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims
21	of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost, and that new ground is broken
22	to gain greater justice and healing for all victims; and
23	WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to
24	recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered
25	to all victims of crime; and
26	WHEREAS, Jody Plauche, a Baton Rouge native, experienced a harrowing abduction
27	in 1984, which sparked his enduring dedication to advocacy for crime victims; and
28	WHEREAS, a proud graduate of Louisiana State University, he actively contributes
29	to violence prevention efforts and served on the executive board for Men Against Violence;
30	and

1	WHEREAS, since 1995, Jody has committed his career to the field of violence
2	prevention, notably at the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, where he served
3	as a sexual assault counselor, prevention educator, and Supervisor of Community Education
4	Programs; and
5	WHEREAS, recognized as Survivor/Activist of the Year by the Pennsylvania
6	Commission on Crime and Delinquency in 2004, his impact extends nationally, having
7	attended the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children and
8	shared his story on various television shows; and
9	WHEREAS, Jody, the esteemed author of "Why Gary Why? The Jody Plauche
10	Story", continues to make a profound difference, currently serving on the board of
11	TentMakers Of Louisiana, furthering his commitment to community initiatives; and
12	WHEREAS, through his tireless advocacy and leadership, Jody Plauche remains a
13	beacon of hope and change, inspiring individuals nationwide with his resilience and
14	dedication to supporting victims of crime.
15	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
16	does hereby recognize April 21-27, 2024, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in
17	Louisiana, and further honors Jody Plauche during National Crime Victims' Rights Week
18	for his exceptional contributions to the field of violence prevention and his unwavering
19	commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of crime victims.
20	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jody
21	Plauche, as a token of our sincere appreciation and gratitude for his invaluable service to our
22	community and nation, and to The Tentmakers of Louisiana.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement Jr.

> **DIGEST** 2024 Regular Session

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SCR 33 Original

Recognizes April 21-27, 2024, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and honors Jody Plauche for his exceptional contributions to the fields of crime victims' rights and violence prevention.