

BY SENATOR BARROW AND REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in its 29th year, the conference also serves to recognize the significant contributions and challenges faced by the more than 55,000 grandparents in Louisiana who are raising their grandchildren, often with limited resources, but boundless love and determination; and

1 WHEREAS, GRG provides vital services to grandfamilies, including support groups,  
2 emergency assistance, legal consultation, and educational workshops; and

3 WHEREAS, GRG's emergency assistance includes food, diapers, formula, gas,  
4 clothing, and school supplies, as well as financial support to help maintain housing and  
5 utilities for families facing crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, these services are often a critical lifeline to grandfamilies, especially  
7 considering that over thirty percent of such families in Louisiana live at or below the poverty  
8 line, and more than seventy-five percent fall below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income  
9 Constrained, Employed) threshold; and

10 WHEREAS, GRG operates without any paid staff and is led by a dedicated  
11 three-member volunteer board of directors, all of whom are grandparents with lived  
12 experience in raising grandchildren; and

13 WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks fourth in the nation for the highest percentage of  
14 children living with grandparents, with approximately 117,859 children living in  
15 grandparent-headed households, and nearly 65,000 of them living there without either parent  
16 present; and

17 WHEREAS, a survey of 200 grandparents raising 433 children across the state paints  
18 a powerful picture of love, sacrifice, and resilience; a safety net that prevents thousands of  
19 children from entering the foster care system, yet one that is fraying from lack of support;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, many times these grandfamilies are formed under difficult  
22 circumstances and statistics support that children in kinship care typically fare better than  
23 those placed in non-relative foster care, as the children in kinship care experience greater  
24 emotional stability, are more likely to remain in their communities and schools, stay with  
25 siblings, and perform better academically; and

26 WHEREAS, the report generated by the survey for this conference outlines twenty  
27 action steps for legislative and community action; bold and compassionate proposals aim to  
28 strengthen the support system for grandfamilies, honor their contributions, and ensure that  
29 both grandparents and the children in their care are provided with dignity, opportunity, and  
30 security; and

1           WHEREAS, for over two decades Dot Thibodeaux and Danna Spayde guided GRG  
2           with their keen insight and strategic wisdom, and even though these inspiring ladies have  
3           passed on, GRG continues Dot and Danna's legacy of uplifting, protecting, and empowering  
4           grandparent caregivers.

5           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
6           celebrate the 29th Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference and acknowledge  
7           the exemplary service it facilitates for grandfamilies in Louisiana and extend heartfelt  
8           gratitude to the families of founders Dot Thibodeaux and Danna Spayde for their selfless and  
9           visionary leadership.

10          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
11          Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.  
The keyword, summary, 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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DIGEST		
SCR 17 Original	2025 Regular Session	Barrow
Celebrates the 29th Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference and extends heartfelt gratitude to the families of founders Dot Thibodeaux and Danna Spayde.		