SLS 25RS-924 ORIGINAL

2025 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR BARROW AND REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

COMMENDATIONS. Celebrates the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference and recognizes its founders, Dot Thibodeaux and Danna Spayde, for their dedication, support, and inspiration to grandfamilies across Louisiana.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

## 2 To celebrate the 29th Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference and to 3 recognize its founders, Dot Thibodeaux and Danna Spayde, for their dedication, support, and inspiration to grandfamilies across Louisiana. 4 5 WHEREAS, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) began in 1993, as a result of a conversation between one grandparent, Dot Thibodeaux, raising her grandson and a 6 7 social worker, Danna Spayde, who worked for the Council on Aging; and 8 WHEREAS, the first action of GRG was to start a support group of grandparents 9 raising grandchildren in Baton Rouge with meetings at the East Baton Rouge Council on 10 Aging; those meetings continue today as monthly gatherings at Family Road of Greater 11 Baton Rouge; and WHEREAS, these monthly gatherings lead to hosting an annual statewide conference 12 13 that offers a day of workshops, respite, and community building for caregiving grandparents, reinforcing the message that they are not alone in their journey; and 14 WHEREAS, in its 29th year, the conference also serves to recognize the significant 15 contributions and challenges faced by the more than 55,000 grandparents in Louisiana who 16 are raising their grandchildren, often with limited resources, but boundless love and 17 18 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

SLS 25RS-924 ORIGINAL SCR NO. 17

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WHEREAS, for over two decades Dot Thibodeaux and Danna Spayde guided GRG	
with their keen insight and strategic wisdom, and even though these inspiring ladies have	
passed on, GRG continues Dot and Danna's legacy of uplifting, protecting, and empowering	
grandparent caregivers.	
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby	
celebrate the 29th Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference and acknowledge	
the exemplary service it facilitates for grandfamilies in Louisiana and extend heartfelt	
gratitude to the families of founders Dot Thibodeaux and Danna Spayde for their selfless and	
visionary leadership.	

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

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)]

DIGEST 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.