

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192

BY SENATOR JACKSON-ANDREWS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request members of the Louisiana Legislature to participate in a "ride along" experience with the Department of Children and Family Services' child welfare specialists.

WHEREAS, child welfare specialists dedicate their professional lives to protecting children, strengthening families, and promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of vulnerable youth; and

WHEREAS, child welfare specialists serve on the front lines of child protection by responding to reports of abuse and neglect, providing critical support services, advocating for children's needs, and helping families access resources necessary for stability and success; and

WHEREAS, the work performed by child welfare specialists requires compassion, integrity, resilience, and sound professional judgment in often difficult and emotionally demanding circumstances; and

WHEREAS, child welfare specialists collaborate with educators, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, courts, and community organizations to ensure that children and families receive comprehensive care and support; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of child welfare specialists play a vital role in strengthening communities by promoting safe environments, reducing trauma, and helping children achieve healthy and productive futures; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize and honor the dedication, sacrifice, and commitment demonstrated daily by child welfare specialists across our communities; and

WHEREAS, being a child welfare specialist is highly demanding, in various capacities such as child protection investigators, family services, or foster care workers; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has demonstrated significant interest in protecting Louisiana's children and the recurring concerns expressed by current and former child welfare employees is of the utmost interest; and

WHEREAS, the best way to understand a person's situation and get a clear picture of their daily experience is to "walk in their shoes"; and

WHEREAS, a "ride along" experience is an arranged opportunity, often used by law enforcement and emergency services to allow a person to observe a professional doing their job or performing a specific activity; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Legislature are in the unique position of not only supporting child welfare specialists through legislation and through agency oversight, but to truly understand all that the front-line workers do and see on any given day.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request members of the Louisiana Legislature to participate in a "ride along" experience with the Department of Children and Family Services' child welfare specialists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services shall coordinate with legislators wishing to participate in a "ride along" experience to fully understand what the child welfare specialist is responsible for at any given moment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each member of the Louisiana Legislature via email transmission and to the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE