

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY SENATOR THEUNISSEN

A RESOLUTION

To express the support of the Louisiana Senate for and to urge and request continued participation in the America's Legislators Back to School Program, sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures annually sponsors and promotes the America's Legislators Back to School Program as part of its civic education initiative and the Trust for Representative Democracy; and

WHEREAS, this program provides the largest civics lesson in the nation and an opportunity for legislators across the nation, in a bipartisan effort, to visit schools in their districts and meet personally with young constituents to answer questions; to listen to their concerns on issues affecting their lives; to impart a greater understanding of the role of their government and the legislative process of debate, negotiation and compromise that are necessary for developing effective public policy; and to illustrate the values of representative democracy to these future voters and leaders; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana senators and state representatives traditionally have been strong supporters of this valuable program and have led legislators throughout the nation in demonstrating the democratic legislative process in classrooms by visiting thousands of students in public and nonpublic schools throughout the state each year; and

WHEREAS, by sharing their experiences, legislators "bring civics to life," helping to dispel young people's cynicism, distrust, and misunderstanding about government and encouraging them to play an active role in their government; and

WHEREAS, the natural disasters that affected Louisiana in 2005, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, brought historic destruction and created a transforming moment in the history of the state; and the Legislators Back to School Program is the ideal opportunity for legislators and students to talk about rebuilding Louisiana into a better, stronger state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana expresses its support for and urges and requests continued participation in the America's Legislators Back to School Program, sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the executive director of the National Conference of State Legislatures and to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE