

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOWNS AND SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education work in collaboration with the State Library of Louisiana and LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network to ensure the funding of library research databases and to negotiate the most advantageous prices for school libraries in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, libraries play an essential role in a free and democratic society, improving the quality of life of citizens throughout the state and contributing to the learning environment at every level of education; and

WHEREAS, use of libraries is strong even in the age of the Internet, as forty-three percent of Louisiana households do not have Internet access and rely on libraries for such access; and

WHEREAS, fostering literacy and lifelong learning is still the foundation of library programs, but the definition of literacy has expanded to encompass twenty-first century literacy skills, including the ability to use computer-based and online resources effectively; and

WHEREAS, school libraries are many citizens' first introduction to the library learning experience and are where many individuals are first provided instruction in basic computer literacy, Internet search skills, and library database use; and

WHEREAS, school libraries can more effectively foster lifelong learning for all citizens of Louisiana by providing access to a broad range of online library databases, which are edited, validated resources providing access to reliable and authoritative information; and

WHEREAS, online library databases have become core resources that all school libraries need to meet the information need of students and teachers, and these databases are subscription-based services with associated annual costs; and

WHEREAS, the most cost-effective means of providing online library databases is through contracts that make them available to all school libraries with the goal of adequately educating Louisiana's citizens and therefore improving the quality of life in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education collaborate with the State Library of Louisiana and LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network in the effort to maximize educational opportunities for students throughout the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education work in cooperation with the State Library of Louisiana and LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network to ensure the funding of library research databases and to negotiate the most advantageous prices for school libraries in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, the state librarian of Louisiana, and the executive director of LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE