ENROLLED

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUTTER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Abuse to appoint and convene a task force to evaluate existing court-approved domestic abuse intervention programs across the state, to study similar programs in other states to determine responsible, evidence-based best practices in the field of domestic abuse intervention, and to report to the Louisiana Legislature its findings and recommendations relative to the development of minimum standards for domestic abuse intervention programs in this state.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has long recognized the need to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need of Louisiana citizens to feel safe in their own homes and recognizes that too often Louisiana residents are abused by the people with whom they are most closely associated; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2010, Louisiana had the highest rate of domestic violence related homicides in the nation; and

WHEREAS, from 1997 through 2009, eight hundred ninety-two people died in domestic violence incidents and ninety percent of those homicides were committed by someone the victim was familiar with, and, in fact, the majority of the murders were committed by the victim's current intimate partner or spouse; and

WHEREAS, in research conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, it was estimated that health-related costs of domestic violence exceed eight billion three hundred million dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by the United States Department of Labor, spouses and intimate partners lose eight million work days to domestic violence every year, which is equivalent to cutting thirty-two thousand one hundred fourteen jobs from the economy; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated by the Bureau of National Affairs that domestic violence costs employers over five billion dollars annually in the form of increased health care costs, absenteeism, reduced productivity, and related security costs; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need to assist victims of domestic abuse battery, and in order to prevent future incidents of domestic violence, to provide assistance to the offender as well; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law currently requires a domestic abuse battery offender to participate in a court-approved domestic abuse intervention program; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the importance of ensuring that these programs utilize responsible intervention methods and employ proven methods and evidence-based best practices used in this state and other states to reduce the incidents of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the necessity of providing effective domestic abuse intervention programs which directly address the issues and needs of the offender while maintaining a focus on the violent behavior of the offender and the safety of the victim; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need for the development of minimum standards and qualifications for court-approved domestic abuse intervention programs in this state which will help to define the program structure, format, content, and techniques, to aid practitioners in designing new programs or adapting changes to existing programs, and to act as a guide for court systems when deciding which programs are appropriate for court referral; and

WHEREAS, in developing these standards, it is necessary that the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Abuse evaluate the existing court-approved domestic abuse intervention programs across the state, and to study similar programs in other states to help determine responsible, evidence-based best practices in the field of domestic abuse intervention.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence to appoint and convene a task force, to be known as the "Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Task Force", to evaluate existing court-approved domestic abuse intervention programs across the

state, to study similar programs in other states to determine responsible, evidence-based best practices in the field of domestic abuse intervention, and to report to the Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Committee on Judiciary B of the Senate its findings and recommendations relative to the development of minimum standards for domestic abuse intervention programs in this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Abuse Task Force shall include representation of the following entities: the Department of Children and Family Services; the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health; the Department of Public Safety and Corrections; the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile justice; the Louisiana District Attorneys Association; the Louisiana Public Defender Board; the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association; the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police; the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family; the Women's Policy and Research Commission; the District Judges Association; and any other agency or entities which the department deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Abuse Task Force report its findings and recommendations to the Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Committee on Judiciary B of the Senate prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Abuse.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE