

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 210

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the Louisiana State University Women's Center to conduct a review and SWOT analysis of the state domestic violence coalition of Louisiana and provide its findings in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than February 1, 2016.

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

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives 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, the House of Representatives recognizes the social need to address the issue of domestic violence that is directed primarily against women; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence assails an individual's right to privacy, dignity, security, and humanity, inflicts physical, emotional, and financial injury on its victims, and exists in every segment of our population; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana State University Women's Center includes the advancement of women and women's well being through the active examination of issues related to women and by serving as a conduit to connect students, faculty, staff, and community members with the information that they need to make educated choices in their lives; and

WHEREAS, a SWOT analysis is a structured survey method used to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats involved in a project through specifying the objective of the project and identifying the internal and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieve that objective; and

WHEREAS, the aim of a SWOT analysis is to identify the internal factors of a project comprised of the strengths, the characteristics of the project that give it an advantage over others, and weaknesses, the characteristics that place the project at a disadvantage relative to others; and the external factors of the project comprised of the opportunities, the elements that the project can use to its advantage, and the threats, the elements in the environment that can cause trouble for the project; and

WHEREAS, a SWOT analysis can be used effectively to build organization or strategy to best accomplish the desired goal by matching the project's resources and capabilities to the environment in which it operates; and

WHEREAS, federal law mandates the creation of state domestic violence coalitions which serve as statewide leaders in the efforts to end domestic violence by connecting local domestic violence service providers and are valuable resources for information about services, programs, legislation, and policies that support survivors of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, one of the goals of state domestic violence coalitions is to improve domestic violence intervention and prevention in their states by ensuring cross-coordinated, best practice solutions are implemented and sustained; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the state domestic violence coalition of Louisiana and is a statewide coalition of shelters, nonresidential programs, and individuals who work together to deter domestic violence behavior; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, there was an increase of eight hundred crisis calls to the statewide domestic violence assistance hotline, about a fifteen percent rise over 2011; and together Louisiana's eighteen domestic violence centers received over thirty-five thousand calls in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in a survey of one twenty-four-hour period on September 17, 2013, in Louisiana, there were seven hundred twenty-one domestic violence victims and their children who received services; three hundred thirty-four calls to domestic violence hotlines were answered; one hundred sixty-seven requests from domestic violence victims were turned down because programs did not have the resources to provide them; and thirty-four percent of unmet requests were from victims who had chosen to flee their abusers, and were seeking safe emergency or transitional housing; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that a comprehensive review of the state domestic violence coalition of Louisiana as the single point of coordination for all existing public and private domestic violence programs be undertaken to identify gaps in prevention and intervention services and to increase coordination among public and private programs to strengthen prevention and intervention services in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Louisiana State University Women's Center to conduct a review and SWOT analysis of the state domestic violence coalition of Louisiana, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to ensure that the organization is reaching its fullest potential as the umbrella organization for coordination of domestic violence programs in all areas including but not limited to the use of best practices, allotment and use of funding, coalition board structure, and training provided for service providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the women's center shall provide its findings in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than February 1, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Louisiana State University Women's Center.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES