

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 169

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To express support for health policies which acknowledge the right of persons suffering from serious mental illness who retain mental competency to choose their course of treatment.

WHEREAS, a person who has not been deemed mentally incompetent by a court of law has a right to choose a course of treatment for any physical or mental illness they may suffer; and

WHEREAS, recent legislation considered by the Legislature of Louisiana does not make it clear that persons suffering from serious mental illness who retain mental competency have the right to choose their course of treatment; and

WHEREAS, in the practices of psychology and licensed professional counseling, "assessment" means selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting instruments designed to gauge an individual's aptitudes, attitudes, abilities, achievements, interests, personality characteristics, and disabilities; and mental, emotional, behavioral, and addiction disorders; and

WHEREAS, in the practice of licensed professional counseling assessment involves the use of methods and techniques for understanding human behavior and mental disorders that may include evaluation and testing, but does not include the use of standardized projective techniques or permit the diagnosis of a physical condition or disorder.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for health policies which acknowledge the right of persons suffering from serious mental illness who retain mental competency to determine what treatment or consultation may be necessary to meet their health needs, and which acknowledge the requirement that persons must provide informed consent for such treatment or consultation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Counseling Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES