

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOUIE

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Wednesday, April 6, 2016, as Louisiana Youth Justice Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, the Louisiana Youth Justice Coalition, which is a network of organizations and individuals who support a legislative and policy agenda for common sense juvenile reform, will sponsor Louisiana Youth Justice Day; and

WHEREAS, on that day, the Coalition, as well as students from Sci Academy, Crescent Leadership Academy, G.W. Carver Preparatory Academy, Cohen College Prep, Joseph S. Clark Preparatory School, Edna Karr High School, and Northside High School, will gather on the steps of the capitol to ask the legislature to raise the age at which a child can be prosecuted as an adult from seventeen to eighteen; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is one of only nine states that charges all seventeen-year-olds as adults; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, high school students can be sent to violent adult jails, where such students face a dramatically increased risk of abuse; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, seventeen-year-olds cannot vote, serve on juries, or join the military, but nonetheless can be charged and imprisoned as adults; and

WHEREAS, raising the age would protect the rights of parents to be involved in the court cases of their minor children; when seventeen-year-olds are arrested, their parents do not need to be informed of the arrest and do not have a right to be involved in the court process; and

WHEREAS, seventeen-year-olds who are arrested end up with an adult arrest record that can prevent them from getting an education and joining the workforce, thus increasing their chances of falling into a cycle of arrest, incarceration, and poverty; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Youth Justice Day is an opportunity for students to learn a real-life civics lesson about the legislative process, to be civically engaged, and to make the legislature aware of their desire for justice reform; and

WHEREAS, the students who participate in Louisiana Youth Justice Day are examples of the kind of informed and active citizenry that is at the very foundation of the American democratic experiment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 6, 2016, as Louisiana Youth Justice Day at the state capitol and also commends the Louisiana Youth Justice Coalition for its efforts to promote juvenile justice reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Youth Justice Coalition.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES