

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To encourage city, parish, and other local public school boards to enter into joint-use agreements for the use of school facilities to promote good health in communities throughout Louisiana.

WHEREAS, physical activity promotes good health and reduces the risk of chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, exercise can help control weight, reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers, strengthen bones and muscles, and improve mental health; and

WHEREAS, physical inactivity can lead to obesity and type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, many communities lack safe places to exercise; and

WHEREAS, opening school fields, tracks, courts, playgrounds and gymnasiums to the public when not in use by students is a low-cost way to encourage more people to be physically active and to achieve maximum value for dollars appropriated by legislators for school facilities; and

WHEREAS, joint-use agreements allow school districts to share school facilities with the community and address the concerns of liability, staffing, maintenance, cost-sharing, and potential costs of vandalism through these agreements; and

WHEREAS, between 2009 and 2010, at least six states considered, and four states passed, legislation regarding joint use of school facilities; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina legislators directed the State Board of Education to encourage local boards of education to enter into agreements with local governments and other entities regarding the joint use of their facilities; and

WHEREAS, in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina, an existing joint-use task force has been able to reduce facility development costs, operational costs, and create a superior product for the community by co-locating facilities at more than six sites, including an elementary school, middle school, park, and fire station facility; and

WHEREAS, "Communities Putting Prevention to Work", a federal program announced on March 19, 2010, provided nearly \$450 million for intensive approaches to chronic disease prevention in selected urban, rural, and tribal communities nationwide, including grants to communities and funds for evaluations; and

WHEREAS, city, parish, and other local public school boards can play a role in increasing community places for physical activity, which may, in turn, contribute to better health for residents and lower health care costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage city, parish, and other local public school boards to enter into joint-use agreements for the use of school facilities to promote good health in Louisiana communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana School Boards' Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES