

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY SENATORS MOUNT, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GUILLORY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Mr. Charles F. Castille on thirty-five years of outstanding service and dedication to the citizens of the state of Louisiana and to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH).

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a sincere measure of appreciation be expressed to Charles F. Castille for his many years of committed service, dedication, and remarkable contributions to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles F. Castille is a native of Arnaudville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Mr. Castille received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and in 1974, he received his Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University Law Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Castille began his service to the state of Louisiana in 1975 as a staff attorney for the Department of Health and Human Resources, the predecessor agency to the Department of Health and Hospitals, where he became general counsel for the department in 1982; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 and 1992, he served as interim chief executive officer of the Louisiana Health Care Authority, which formerly administered the state charity hospital system prior to its transfer to LSU; and

WHEREAS, in the ensuing years, Mr. Castille's wealth of knowledge, tireless energy, innovative ideas, and expertise led to various other executive management positions within the department, including his service in 1994 and 1995 as the department's deputy secretary; and

WHEREAS, as deputy secretary, he was responsible for overseeing the administration of day-to-day operations of the department, including the oversight of mental health, public health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse programs; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, Mr. Castille has served as the department's undersecretary, having been first appointed to that position by Governor Mike Foster in February 1998, reappointed by Governor Kathleen Blanco in February 2004, and reappointed again by Governor Bobby Jindal in January 2008; and

WHEREAS, in that position, Mr. Castille has demonstrated exceptional leadership in serving as the chief financial officer for DHH, overseeing several thousand employees and managing the agencies multi-billion dollar annual budget; and

WHEREAS, as undersecretary, he oversaw the state Medicaid program, which provides health care services for more than a million Louisiana residents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Castille's dedication and commitment was essential in implementing the Medicaid outreach and LaCHIP programs, which provided coverage for more than 300,000 additional Louisiana children; and

WHEREAS, as undersecretary of the department, Mr. Castille is also responsible for overseeing financial research, contract administration, human resources, capital outlay, and policy development, and his work to consolidate IT and human resources functions throughout the department helped provide more consistent delivery of services; and

WHEREAS, he has also been instrumental in working with the legislature and developing the department's legislative strategy and packages; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Castille is known throughout the department as a virtual walking encyclopedia of knowledge about the department and its history; and

WHEREAS, his wealth of knowledge is one of the many reasons he will be so dearly missed, as he is considered to be the "institutional memory" of the agency; and

WHEREAS, his great integrity, character, conviction, and composure in the toughest of situations have earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues at the department, the legislature, others in state government, and with federal government leaders; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Mr. Castille was honored by the Louisiana Civil Service League with a Charles E. Dunbar, Jr., Career Service Award for exemplary service to the

state; and

WHEREAS, the Dunbar award is considered to be the highest honor a classified state employee can receive for his or her service, and only twelve Dunbar awards for exceptional civil service are given out each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Castille was also the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Rural Hospital Coalition; and

WHEREAS, he is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System (LASERS); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Castille is a loving husband and father and he and his wife, Gail, have been blessed with two wonderful children, David and Adrienne; and

WHEREAS, his dedicated service has resulted in a substantial increase in the availability and accessibility of health care for Louisiana citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Castille has not only dedicated his life to bettering the health and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana, he has also touched the lives of those who have been privileged to learn from, work with, and know him; and

WHEREAS, although he is retiring, his impact on the health and welfare systems of Louisiana will continue for many years to come, and he will truly be missed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge with gratitude and commend Charles F. Castille for his outstanding service of over thirty years to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the citizens of Louisiana and congratulate and wish him well on the occasion of his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Charles F. Castille.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES