

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Elaine M. "Shelly" Taylor of Shreveport, Louisiana, for an outstanding career as president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Association for the Blind (LAB), for her many contributions made on behalf of the advancement of services for the visually impaired, and to congratulate her upon a well-deserved retirement.

WHEREAS, since 1995, Shelly Taylor has served LAB in numerous managerial and executive positions, and in 2008, she was selected by its board of directors to lead the organization as president and CEO; and

WHEREAS, during her twenty-two years of service to LAB, Shelly Taylor has been a dynamo of enterprise, and her straight-forward approach and keen business savvy have advanced the availability of employment and educational opportunities for employees to attain self-sufficient lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership and as a part of National Industries for the Blind (NIB), LAB has increased integrated employment for individuals with vision loss through expanded operations in its manufacturing, AbilityOne Base Supply Centers, commercial enterprise development, and contractual agreements; and

WHEREAS, Shelly Taylor feels an obligation to inspire, encourage, and challenge those around her; she facilitates a safe and flexible work environment where visually impaired employees can perform to the best of their abilities; and

WHEREAS, Shelly has transformed LAB into an organization that exemplifies integrity, transparency, and respect for all employees; with the implementation of a Quality Work Environment program, employees have input and upward mobility within the agency, and with adaptable workstations and extensive training, these employees are afforded pathways to jobs that were previously inaccessible to those with low vision capacities; and

WHEREAS, during 2017, Louisiana Association for the Blind celebrated its ninetieth anniversary, and Shelly has worked tirelessly to promote LAB within the community and to recognize this impressive milestone of success; and

WHEREAS, Shelly Taylor has served with great distinction with membership and board positions in the National Association for Employment of People Who Are Blind (NAEPB), VisionServe Alliance, Rotary International, and many other nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Shelly Taylor graduated with magna cum laude honors having earned a liberal arts degree from Louisiana State University-Shreveport and having also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Centenary College where she serves on its board of directors for Literacy Volunteers of Centenary College; and

WHEREAS, Shelly Taylor was twice honored as a nominee for the Athena Award by the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Shelly Taylor is a management executive of the highest order who possesses an abundance of interests and skills, she wears the mantle of community service proudly and willingly, and she has left an indelible mark on the Louisiana Association for the Blind during her tenure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Elaine M. "Shelly" Taylor for her outstanding achievements as president and CEO of the Louisiana Association for the Blind, for her exemplary service to the visually impaired citizens of the state of Louisiana, and for her many contributions made on behalf of her community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Shelly Taylor is hereby congratulated upon the celebration of her well-earned retirement on September 20, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Shelly Taylor, former president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Association for the Blind.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES