

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To welcome Toni Cooke to the state of Louisiana and express appreciation for her efforts, in conjunction with the Ford Foundation, in support of the Louisianans Building Economic Stability Together (LABEST) Initiative and Ford's Building Economic Security Over a Lifetime (BESOL) Initiative.

WHEREAS, Louisianans Building Economic Stability Together (LABEST) is a project of Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation (UREC); and

WHEREAS, the primary role of UREC is to provide leadership and guidance in the expansion and formation of a statewide coalition aligned with Southern Regional Asset Building Coalition (SRABC) and The Building Economic Security over Lifetime (BESOL) Initiative funded and supported by the Ford Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration is comprised of grassroots, nonprofit and advocacy organizations, policy makers, community leaders, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); and

WHEREAS, the unified strategy for LABEST is a grassroots teaching approach to build a base of cross sector leaders committed to working with regional partners throughout the state to help set conditions that will address policies that impact superior growth and prosperity in our state; and

WHEREAS, Toni Cooke is a Senior Consultant of Realize Consulting Group and the managing principal of T. Cooke and Associates in Upland, California; and

WHEREAS, Toni has over twenty years of experience in nonprofit and health care environments being formerly with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative as a Senior Associate Director overseeing grants and assisting the initiative's grantees in meeting the foundation's accountability requirements; and

WHEREAS, during that time she led the development of expansion opportunities in new communities, inviting foundations to invest in programs and resources to support foster youth between the ages of 14 and 23 years of age; and

WHEREAS, she also served as co-chair for the Foster Care Work Group, one of three work groups of the Youth Transition Funders Group; and

WHEREAS, Toni holds a BA from Douglass College/Rutgers University and a master's degree in social work from Howard University; and

WHEREAS, she has extensive experience in sustainability planning and Results Based Accountability and was recently qualified in Results Based Facilitation and received her Myers-Briggs certification from the Association of Psychological Type; and

WHEREAS, she was recently appointed to the Advisory Committee to First Five, San Bernardino County, California.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana welcomes Toni Cooke to the state of Louisiana and expresses appreciation for her efforts, in conjunction with the Ford Foundation, in support of the LABEST Initiative and Ford's BESOL Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Toni Cooke.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE