

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 189

BY SENATORS CROWE, PETERSON, ALARIO, APPEL, HEITMEIER, MORRELL
AND MURRAY

A RESOLUTION

To make an urgent request for additional assistance and resources to fight crime in the state on behalf of five year old Briana "Bri" Allen who randomly and senselessly lost her life to violent crime in New Orleans.

WHEREAS, this resolution shall heretofore be referred to as "The Briana "Bri" Allen Memorial Resolution for Peace"; and

WHEREAS, the citizens in many areas of the state of Louisiana, and most unfortunately, its innocent children, are enduring a spike in violent, deadly crime as in New Orleans which is faced with the highest per capita murder rate in the country; and

WHEREAS, just this week an innocent five year old girl named Briana "Bri" Allen was murdered shortly after graduating from kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the murder this innocent child was celebrating a family member's 10th birthday; and

WHEREAS, at the same gathering another innocent ten year old child was shot in the neck but survived the stray gunshots, and this is just one of four separate incidents of random shootings on the same day that left four dead and four injured in a period of only three hours; and

WHEREAS, the streets in many areas of the state of Louisiana are becoming more and more dangerous for the public and for police and in the midst of the rampant crime, more and more the innocent victims are our children; and

WHEREAS, with Louisiana recently being named the most violent state in the nation, in large part because of the violence in and around New Orleans, our people, our businesses and industries, and our potential for economic development in the state will suffer; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, including New Orleans, not only attracts tourists and industry from all over the world, it is a major driver of the state's economy and the state's national reputation which makes the staggering crime rate a shared problem that requires a shared solution; and

WHEREAS, the Senate strongly urges and requests that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections make every attempt to have corrections services probation and parole officers assigned in sufficient numbers in areas of the state with large numbers of individuals who need probation and parole supervision; and

WHEREAS, every time a busy local law enforcement officer responds to or handles an accident on the interstate, instead of the state police, other parts of a city or other area dealing with violent crime gets get neglected; and

WHEREAS, for instance, on any given day, the NOPD typically dedicates six cars to monitor the interstate traffic; and

WHEREAS, if state troopers can be dedicated to the interstate system in New Orleans as well as other cities or other areas dealing with violent crime, major state highways, and state-controlled properties, it would be a tremendous help in freeing up NOPD and other police and law enforcement agencies in other cities and other areas dealing with violent crime to fight crime and murder in such areas; and

WHEREAS, the Senate would like to urge and request the colonel of the state police to work with mayors and local law enforcement agencies of the state to resolve some of these issues so additional resources can be allocated to such areas and thereby free up local resources to be used to target violent crime and murder in such areas; and

WHEREAS, the district attorney and the public defender are critical and important parts of the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Senate would like to urge and request that the state fully fund and adequately support district attorneys and public defenders in high violent crime areas ; and

WHEREAS, the loss of behavioral health beds and services means fewer services for those who may be a danger to themselves and the community; and

WHEREAS, this means police and first responders are diverted to those individuals whose true obstacles are behavioral health needs instead of traditional public safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Senate would like to urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to provide adequate budgeting to the extent possible for out patient mental health and substance abuse services including a Mobile Crisis Response Team, four Crisis Step-

Down Beds, an Assertive Community Treatment Team, and an Intensive Case Management Team; and

WHEREAS, another year cannot go by without all stakeholders contributing to address the escalating crime in the state and all factors outlined above are critical and intertwined in realizing solutions; and

WHEREAS, the time is now for the state to intervene with additional assistance and resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate would like to urge and request that the state police, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the commissioner of administration, the Department of Health and Hospitals, and other state and local governments and agencies all work with the mayors and local law enforcement and social agencies of the state to dedicate and coordinate their resources in such areas so that resources can be effectively focused or freed up and used to target violent crime and murder in the state thereby restoring faith that Louisiana is a safe place to live, work, and play.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall heretofore be referred to as "The Briana "Bri" Allen Memorial Resolution for Peace".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the superintendent of the office of state police, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the commissioner of administration, the governor, mayors of the cities of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Monroe, and the family of Briana "Bri" Allen.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE