

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY SENATOR APPEL

A RESOLUTION

To recognize and designate March 21, 2018, as Kick Butts Day.

WHEREAS, Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to stand out, speak up, and fight back against the dangers of smoking; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana youth are some of the most unhealthy in the nation; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use by Louisiana's middle and high school students exceeds the national average with 14.9% of middle school students, compared to 7.2% on the national level, and 28.9% of high school students, compared with 20.0% on the national level; and

WHEREAS, approximately 7,200 kids in Louisiana become daily smokers each year; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 Next Era Youth leaders have gathered to promote healthy, tobacco-free lifestyles, and encourage legislators to support policies proven to reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke which policies include higher tobacco taxes, comprehensive smoke-free policies, well-funded tobacco prevention and smoking cessation programs, and tougher regulation of tobacco products, and the marketing of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, Next Era Youth, an initiative of Healthier Air for All, a program of The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living, seeks to empower a tobacco-free generation by fostering youth leadership and activism; and

WHEREAS, 100% smoke-free environments are the most effective way to fully protect all citizens from the detrimental effects of exposure to secondhand smoke.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and designate March 21, 2018, as Kick Butts Day, a day to stand out, speak up, and fight back against the dangers of smoking.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE