

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR MORRELL

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the students and faculty of the Lusher Charter School in New Orleans, in particular, its kindergarten through fifth grade classes, for participation in the community service project, "Love Drops", and for the promotion of peace and goodwill in their community, state, and nation.

WHEREAS, the curricula of the Lusher Charter School emphasizes that development of empathy, teamwork, collaboration, problem resolution, and leadership skills is as valuable an educational asset as traditional academic competence in reading and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, "Love Drops" is a creative service project with a primary goal to encourage and inspire others; its aim is to communicate the social ideals of love, kindness, and goodwill throughout the state of Louisiana and across the country; and

WHEREAS, Love Drops are cleverly painted rocks decorated by the students with expressions of kindness such as "spread love", "share a smile", and "create peace"; and

WHEREAS, seven hundred Love Drops were distributed by students and teachers to Audubon Park, City Park, and other popular venues throughout the city of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, in April, a field trip to the state capitol in Baton Rouge provides another opportunity to distribute more Love Drops and advance the service project; and

WHEREAS, through the use of social media, "Found Love Drops", individuals who find these painted stones are encouraged to share the experience, to pay it forward with random acts of kindness, to post the inspiration, and to continue the social activism; and

WHEREAS, initially, the Love Drops project reinforces the learning basics of language and art; however, participation enhances a deeper development of the humane character traits of empathy, sympathy, and kindness toward one's fellow man; and

WHEREAS, with this social experience students gain a sense of community, personal responsibility, and self-empowerment; social media feedback reinforces awareness that one's

actions may have profound consequences and bring about positive change in others; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of collaboration, the Lusher Charter School has partnered with three other schools, the Homer Plessy Community School in New Orleans, and Momentous Institute and Cottonwood Creek Elementary in Dallas, Texas, to extend the scope of the Love Drops project; and

WHEREAS, curriculum goals and activities such as Love Drops attempt to promote community advocacy, humanity, and civil stewardship within the individual, and to empower students that each may find his own voice and continue to have a lifelong affirmative impact on society.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the efforts of the kindergarten-fifth grade students and faculty of the Lusher Charter School to promote peace and goodwill in their community, state, and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the participants of the Love Drops service project for their extraordinary citizenship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Lower School Principal, Sheila Nelson, and to kindergarten teacher, Elizabeth Sepanik, both of the Lusher Charter School.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE