

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY SENATORS MILLS, LAFLEUR AND THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To designate April 21, 2016, as School-Based Health Care Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, school-based health care facilities are an important statewide resource helping to address the health care needs of underserved and uninsured children, providing needed preventive, diagnostic and treatment services, including direct primary care and mental health care for acute and chronic illnesses, health education, case management assistance, and immunizations; and

WHEREAS, these facilities provide vital counseling for more recently understood health care concerns that have replaced infectious diseases as the major illness of childhood, including such risk factors as childhood obesity, asthma, smoking, substance abuse, violence, and safety issues, as well as behavioral problems ranging from mild to severe; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, as policymakers became concerned with the high morbidity and mortality rates of adolescents, the office of public health, within the Department of Health and Hospitals, was asked to determine the feasibility of opening school-based health care facilities in the state; and

WHEREAS, a year later, the Adolescent School Health Initiative was enacted and school-based health care facilities came into existence across the state; and

WHEREAS, a school-based health care facility provides convenient access to comprehensive, primary, and preventive physical and mental health services for public school students available at the school site; and

WHEREAS, as students spend a significant portion of their day on school grounds, school-based health care facilities offer accessible, convenient health care, while encouraging family and community involvement, reducing student absenteeism, reducing parental leave from work for doctor visits, and working with school personnel to meet the needs of the students and their families; and

WHEREAS, school-based health care facilities complement school nurses and social workers, where they exist, because, generally, the scope of practice of such nurses and social workers is more limited than that of the school-based health care facility, which have a broad mandate; and

WHEREAS, school-based health care facilities are able to provide comprehensive health services to students, providing treatment for minor illness and injury, comprehensive physicals as may be required for school-related activities, behavioral health counseling, treatments for chronic diseases, required vaccines, and other beneficial services that enhance the learning environment of a school; and

WHEREAS, at this time, sixty-two school-based health care facilities are operated in twenty-seven parishes throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, these health care facilities serve an additional fifty-three feeder schools; and

WHEREAS, in the 2014-2015 school year over forty-seven thousand students have made nearly one hundred and fifteen thousand visits to school-based health care facilities in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate April 21, 2016, as School-Based Health Care Awareness Day in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the board of the Alliance on School-Based Health.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE