

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 95

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to collaborate with stakeholders to study and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for the delivery of domestic violence services and to report its recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2014.

WHEREAS, domestic violence is detrimental to the safety and psychological well-being of Louisiana's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana must maximize its resources to provide services to the victims of domestic violence in a manner that prioritizes safety and results in long-term, sustainable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence funding in Louisiana is currently based on a model which is mainly focused on shelters as opposed to models directed at primary and secondary prevention programs with documented successful outcome measures; and

WHEREAS, research is warranted to determine whether Louisiana families would receive a greater benefit from programs that focus on the root causes of domestic violence, before victims are forced to utilize a shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act encourages states to implement comprehensive plans for domestic violence response.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to collaborate with the following stakeholders to study and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for domestic violence services:

- (1) A representative of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- (2) A representative of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.
- (3) A representative of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault.

- (4) A representative of the Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission.
- (5) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.
- (6) A representative of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- (7) A representative of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.
- (8) A representative of the Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office, with expertise in the administration of the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.
- (9) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Justice, office of the attorney general.
- (10) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health.
- (11) A representative of the Louisiana Public Defender Board.
- (12) A representative of the District Judges Association.
- (13) A representative of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
- (14) A domestic violence survivor.
- (15) A domestic violence program director.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department along with the stakeholders shall develop a plan that includes but is not limited to all of the following:

- (1) Development of a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.
- (2) Establishment of a method to transition domestic violence service providers towards evidence-based national best practices focusing on outreach and prevention.
- (3) Development of a plan that ensures that Louisiana laws on domestic violence are being properly implemented and provides for training on domestic violence and its many dimensions to law enforcement and the judiciary.
- (4) Development of a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program outcomes.

**SR NO. 95**

**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department shall provide its recommendations of this in the form of a report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before January 15, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE