

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Health's office of behavioral health, and the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to collaborate on best practices and model programs that address gun violence prevention and intervention, and identify strategies and funding sources to assist in implementing the practices and programs.

WHEREAS, gun violence across Louisiana carries high health care, law enforcement, and criminal justice costs to Louisiana's taxpayers; according to statistics from Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, gun violence costs Louisiana \$14.3 billion each year, of which \$457.6 million is paid by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, at an average cost of \$3,085 per resident each year, Louisiana has the sixth highest per resident cost of gun violence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these costs do not account for the toll of the lives stolen, the trauma of witnessing a shooting, the fear of becoming a victim of such violence, or the long-term impacts on communities grappling with gun violence; and

WHEREAS, these tragic incidents have disproportionately affected black residents; across the United States; black residents are five times more likely to die by gun homicide than their white neighbors; in Louisiana, black residents are ten times more likely to die by gun homicide than their white neighbors; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention and intervention programs have demonstrated that violence can be dramatically reduced when targeted prevention and intervention strategies are identified and implemented in the small segment of the population who are at the highest risk of being involved in gun violence; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that direct funding to resource and support evidence-informed and community-driven violence intervention programs in the communities most impacted by gun violence has demonstrated effectiveness in saving lives; and

WHEREAS, strategies that have evidenced success include street outreach programs utilized in Philadelphia and Newark, hospital-based violence intervention programs utilized by Indianapolis, and cognitive behavioral therapy services utilized in Richmond, California, as well as public safety round tables utilized around the country to engage the community in the public safety process and develop solutions; and

WHEREAS, the evidence strongly supports that community-based violence prevention and intervention programming can comprehensively address the cycle of violence by addressing the root causes of violence, providing support in moments of crisis, and offering resources to support the healing of victims and survivors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Police, the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to collaborate on best practices and model programs that address gun violence prevention and intervention and identify strategies and funding sources to assist in implementing the practices and programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, the assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE