

RESOLUTION OF THE HOUMA-TERREBONNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WHEREAS, The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce believes that services and activities for our elderly citizens, which enhance dignity, support independence, and encourage involvement in and with the community, are essential to the quality of life of our community;

WHEREAS, more and more baby boomers are becoming senior citizens thus increasing the elderly population, therefore we will see the need for elderly services continue to increase, further demonstrating the need for a department dedicated to this population;

WHEREAS, Amendment 11 would increase the limit of constitutionally allowed departments from 20 to 21 triggering the implementation of HB 352 and thus creating the Department of Elderly Affairs;

WHEREAS, as defined by HB 352, the Department of Elderly Affairs would be responsible for the functions of the state that are designed to meet the needs of Louisiana residents 60 years of age or older including working with local councils on aging, administration of federal funds, nutrition programs for the elderly and handicapped and elderly transportation services.

WHEREAS, these services are currently being provided by the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs and the Office of Aging and Adult Services. Consolidating these services into one dedicated department would provide cost savings and a higher more efficient coordination of care.

WHEREAS, Act 384, which requires the Office of Elderly Affairs become the Department of Elderly Affairs, unanimously passed the Legislature and was signed by Governor Jindal in June 2013;

WHEREAS, federal funds for senior citizens would come directly to the Department of Elderly Affairs and be dispersed directly to the local agencies;

WHEREAS, Terrebonne Council on Aging is ranked as the Premier Agency in the State of Louisiana for providing more high quality community based services than are required and can be the model for other agencies across the state;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce endorses Amendment 11 to increase the number of state departments from 20 to 21 slated to be on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Terrebonne Parish Council On Aging, the members of the COA Board, and posted to the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce website so that our support may known.

This Resolution was passed, approved, and adopted by the Board of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce this thirtieth day of September 2014.