



NEWS RELEASE

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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New report touts Louisiana juvenile reform success; Speaker Pro Temp reacts

BATON ROUGE –A watchdog organization on juvenile crime prevention has highlighted Louisiana for its efforts to reduce the rate at which juvenile offenders repeat criminal behavior. Speaker Pro Tempore Walt Leger received an early copy of the report, which named Louisiana as one of five states leading the country in successful use of family therapy programs aimed at reducing delinquency. The report’s authors previewed their findings at the *Models for Change* annual conference in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. The report named five leading states, Louisiana included, which have turned “crisis into opportunity.”

Rep. Leger, Chairman of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission (JJIC), praised Louisiana’s Reform efforts, stating, “I am proud of the national attention Louisiana is receiving for our success with juvenile reform. This is just one more way that Louisiana has proven how much we care about the wellbeing and future of our youth. I hope more states follow our lead and make the effort to transform the lives of our Nation’s youth.”

Formed in 2001, the commission is charged with evaluating specific problem areas within the Louisiana juvenile justice system and making recommendations for improvement. The report, published by the Association for the Advancement of Evidence-Based Practice was posted today at <http://www.advancingebp.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/AEBP-assessment.pdf> .

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