

By: Representatives Cozart, Barker, Vaught

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE CRISIS RECOVERY NETWORK  
COORDINATED BY THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD;  
TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ARKANSAS'S PARTICIPATION IN  
THE CRISIS RECOVERY SUPPORT NETWORK; AND TO RECOGNIZE  
THE CRISIS RECOVERY SUPPORT NETWORK AS A TRUSTED  
SUPPORT FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

### Subtitle

TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ARKANSAS'S  
PARTICIPATION IN THE CRISIS RECOVERY  
SUPPORT NETWORK COORDINATED BY THE  
SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD.

WHEREAS, after natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, following school shooting events, and during the course of public emergencies, recovery must be prioritized as a long-term process rather than an immediate, short-term response process; and

WHEREAS, states, school districts, and postsecondary institutions have focused on crisis prevention and management, but may not have the capacity to provide sustained support for students, teachers, communities, and even their own counselors during the recovery stage following a crisis; and

WHEREAS, rural schools and postsecondary institutions in particular tend to have fewer counselors and limited access to additional counseling resources; and



WHEREAS, school counselors are often expected to respond to student needs after a crisis, even as they themselves grapple with the emotional toll following a crisis, which underscores the need for external support for the entire school community; and

WHEREAS, schools and postsecondary institutions affected by a crisis may require at least one (1) year of dedicated support to fully recover following the crisis; and

WHEREAS, recovery efforts following a crisis can strain resources that are already stretched thin, given that a National Center for Education Statistics study showed that less than one-half (1/2) of public schools surveyed believe that their school is able to provide mental health services to all students who are in need; and

WHEREAS, crisis recovery is an extended healing process for students and adults alike, and having additional counselors come to the aid of a school or postsecondary institution in extreme need supports the healing process of all people in an affected community, including teachers and counselors at an affected school or postsecondary institution; and

WHEREAS, specialized training for counselors is essential to ensure that the counselors have psychological first aid training and can provide counseling that aligns with the unique needs of an educational environment; and

WHEREAS, research shows that students who receive adequate support after a crisis are more likely to succeed academically, remain in school, and contribute positively to society; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Regional Education Board, with its seventy-five-year history of partnering with states to improve education, is uniquely equipped to lead this effort because of its ability to mobilize key education and policymaking stakeholders at all levels,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Southern Regional Education Board, in close collaboration with governors' offices, state education agencies, local schools, and postsecondary institutions, will complement existing school and school district crisis management efforts by focusing on long-term healing and psychological resilience by deploying counselors with specialized training to schools and postsecondary institutions in extreme need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Southern Regional Education Board will hire a coordinator for the Crisis Recovery Support Network and cover travel costs for counselors during the training and deployment processes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT to meet the urgent need for a coordinated, region-wide effort to provide a consistent, long-term counseling capacity that is ready to deploy immediately after a crisis, the House of Representatives support the Southern Regional Education Board Crisis Recovery Support Network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Southern Regional Education Board by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.