

Louisiana Passes Historic School Chaplaincy Bill, Joining Texas and Florida

With the passage of Senate Bill SB123, Louisiana has become the third state to enact a bill that provides for chaplaincy in schools, in advance of the passing of HB334. The "School Chaplaincy Bill" will be adopted and signed by Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry. State Sen. Mark Abraham, R-Lake Charles, and Rep. Beryl Amedee, R-District 51, championed these bills for school chaplaincy, which has a proven role in alleviating tension, resolving conflict and bringing hope to school faculty and students.

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"Chaplaincy fills a huge gap in support for individuals suffering from trauma and ongoing anxiety," said Johnny Davis, chief development officer for the National School Chaplain Association. "School chaplains are not just front-line staff but also key contributors to the school district's success. They convey hope and purpose, vitally important aspects of chaplaincy that are proven to create safer and more peaceful learning environments."

Recent data from the U.S. reveals the highest-ever levels of anxiety, depression and hopelessness among students, with educators suffering burnout at staggering rates.

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School chaplains meet the needs of four groups:

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