

House Resolution 1228

By: Representative Mallow of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2-8, 2022, as Week of the Young Child at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development
4 and lay the foundation for all future learning. Children's cognitive, physical, social and
5 emotional, and language and literacy developments are built on a foundation of positive
6 interactions with adults, peers, and their environment; and

7 WHEREAS, sixty-five percent of children in our state have all available parents in the
8 workforce, making child care a pressing need. Nation wide, women are quitting their jobs
9 at a higher rate than men. That gender resignation gap is widest in the states with the most
10 child care disruptions; and

11 WHEREAS, high quality early care and education can help ameliorate the effects of poverty,
12 detect and remediate delays, identify and help prevent child neglect, and lead to positive
13 outcomes for individual children, helping them better prepare for school and increase their
14 success in life. Participation in high quality early childhood education saves taxpayer dollars,
15 makes working families more economically secure, and prepares children to succeed in
16 school, earn higher wages, and live healthier lives; and

17 WHEREAS, the lack of sufficient public investment in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic
18 has forced child care programs, educators, and families into a series of impossible choices
19 with devastating consequences. Many child care providers have, at great personal and
20 professional cost, managed to keep their doors open during the pandemic to better support
21 children and families in their communities. The average wage for child care providers, who
22 are skilled and valuable frontline professionals risking their health to provide education and
23 care during a global pandemic, is less than \$12.00 per hour, with Black and Latina child care
24 workers making even less; and

25 WHEREAS, young children need developmentally appropriate, accessible, and available
26 early care and education settings, which provide them access to an early childhood education
27 workforce that reflects a rich diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural identities; and

28 WHEREAS, working families need sufficient high quality child care spaces beginning at
29 birth to be available in the community, with robust subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits
30 for families at all income levels that support the true cost of quality early childhood
31 education; and

32 WHEREAS, early childhood educators need the ability to earn a family-sustaining wage that
33 is commensurate with the required education and skills they bring to the complex and
34 valuable work they do. They deserve to have the ability to have basic workplace benefits
35 such as health insurance, retirement, paid sick leave, paid vacation, and professional
36 development leave; and

37 WHEREAS, we celebrate the Week of the Young Child so that we can continue to recognize
38 and advance the early childhood education profession, and advocate for a sustainable system
39 of child care.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
41 the members of this body recognize April 2-8, 2022, as the Week of the Young Child at the
42 state capitol.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
44 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
45 public and the press.