
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 144 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BIZZARRO, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, BULLOCK,
BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, DUSH,
FREEMAN, HENNESSEY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MARSICO, McNEILL,
MILLARD, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, SOLOMON, SONNEY, TOOHIL, WATSON
AND NEILSON, MARCH 10, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 10, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2017 as "The Month of the Young
2 Child" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, There are more than 730,000 children from birth to
4 five years of age in this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, A young child's brain forms 700 neural synapses a
6 second, and the circuits for key functions such as vision,
7 hearing, language and higher cognitive function develop the most
8 in the first five years of life; and

9 WHEREAS, The creation of these circuits is affected by a
10 child's early learning environment; and

11 WHEREAS, Young children learn best when they have proper
12 health and nutrition, a safe and stable family and home life and
13 activities that stimulate creativity, curiosity and the
14 development of all the skills they will need to succeed; and

15 WHEREAS, High-quality early learning and conditions for
16 optimal child development play a major role in a child's future

1 success in school and in life; and

2 WHEREAS, Talking, reading and playing with children from
3 birth builds the language, mathematics and social skills they
4 need to be ready for kindergarten; and

5 WHEREAS, Forty years of research has shown that children
6 receiving high-quality early education are more likely to be
7 prepared for and do better in school, graduate from high school,
8 attend college and participate in job training; and

9 WHEREAS, Children attending high-quality early learning
10 programs are better prepared for the competitive work force,
11 including opportunities in law enforcement and the military; and

12 WHEREAS, High-quality early learning is especially beneficial
13 to children whose educational opportunities are hindered by
14 poverty or other circumstances; and

15 WHEREAS, Parents and guardians are able to be productive,
16 engaged and focused employees when their children are afforded a
17 stable and high-quality early learning environment at a
18 reasonable cost; and

19 WHEREAS, Research demonstrates high-quality early learning
20 saves taxpayer dollars by reducing the need for special
21 education and remedial instruction and decreases drop-out rates,
22 crime and incarceration; and

23 WHEREAS, High-quality early learning programs in this
24 Commonwealth such as Pre-K Counts, Head Start Supplemental
25 Assistance Program, Keystone STARS, Early Intervention and
26 evidence-based home visiting are sound investments that are
27 preparing our youngest children for success in school and in
28 life; and

29 WHEREAS, Supporting and retaining a well-trained, early
30 learning staff is critical since a highly qualified staff is an

1 essential element of a high-quality program; and

2 WHEREAS, The number of high-quality early learning programs
3 in this Commonwealth falls short of meeting the needs of
4 children in this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, Only one in six children is able to access high-
6 quality, publicly funded prekindergarten, and only 4.8% of child
7 care openings for children birth to four years of age are in the
8 highest quality STAR 4 or accredited programs; and

9 WHEREAS, Delayed investments in early childhood education are
10 lost opportunities; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
12 month of April 2017 as "The Month of the Young Child" in
13 Pennsylvania and recognize that each child in this Commonwealth
14 deserves access to high-quality early learning opportunities.