
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 801 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MUNDY, MURT, FREEMAN, MACKENZIE, V. BROWN, BOBACK, KINSEY, DIGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, O'NEILL, STERN, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, MCCARTER, CALTAGIRONE, J. HARRIS, DAVIS, BISHOP, COHEN, THOMAS, SCHLOSSBERG, GIBBONS, KIM, LUCAS, BENNINGHOFF, FLYNN, CLAY, WATSON, MCNEILL, ROEBUCK, SCHLEGEL, CULVER, MOLCHANY, KORTZ, GOODMAN, ROSS, KAVULICH, ROCK, HARHART, BROWNLEE, FLECK, VEREB AND READSHAW, APRIL 28, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 28, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2014 as "The Month of the Young
2 Child" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, There are approximately 724,000 children from birth
4 to five years of age in Pennsylvania today; 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 all the
14 skills they will need to succeed in school and in life; and

15 WHEREAS, High-quality early learning and child development

1 play a major role in a child's future success in school and in
2 life; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Children attending high-quality early learning
11 programs are better prepared for whichever career path they
12 choose in the competitive work force, including opportunities in
13 law enforcement and the military; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Parents and guardians are able to be productive,
18 engaged and focused employees when they have stable, affordable
19 and high-quality early learning settings for their children; and

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Supporting and retaining a well-trained, early
30 learning staff is critical because a highly qualified work force

1 is an essential element of a high-quality program; and

2 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, there is still far too much unmet
3 need for high-quality learning programs in Pennsylvania; and

4 WHEREAS, Only 1 in 6 children are able to access high-
5 quality, publicly funded pre-k and only 4.8% of child care
6 openings for children birth to four years of age are in the
7 highest quality STAR 4 or accredited programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Children only have one early childhood experience,
9 and delayed investments are lost opportunities; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
11 month of April 2014 as "The Month of the Young Child" in
12 Pennsylvania and recognize that every child in Pennsylvania
13 deserves access to high-quality early learning opportunities.