
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 96 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, TARTAGLIONE,
BOSCOLA, HAYWOOD, STREET, BREWSTER, BROWN, MILLER AND
LAUGHLIN, APRIL 20, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 20, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2023 as "The Month of the Young
2 Child" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In the first years of life, human brains grow faster
4 than at any other time; and

5 WHEREAS, At no other time in a human's life will the brain
6 develop at this remarkable speed or with such intricacy; and

7 WHEREAS, This is the foundation upon which all later
8 learning, behavior and health depend; and

9 WHEREAS, There are 1.2 million children between birth and 8
10 years of age in this Commonwealth, 17% of whom live in low-
11 income families; and

12 WHEREAS, High-quality early childhood programs provide
13 essential benefits to children, families and our national and
14 state economies; and

15 WHEREAS, Participation in high-quality early childhood
16 education saves taxpayer dollars, makes working families more
17 economically secure and prepares children to succeed in school,

1 earn higher wages and live healthier lives; and

2 WHEREAS, Parents will always be the most important influence
3 on their children; and

4 WHEREAS, There are nearly 796,000 working parents with
5 children under six years of age in Pennsylvania; and

6 WHEREAS, Evidence-based programs that strengthen our families
7 and ensure access to high-quality early care and education are
8 needed to maximize children's potential in the first five years
9 of life; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite the proven benefits of high-quality early
11 care and education, more eligible Pennsylvania children and
12 families need access to these services; and

13 WHEREAS, Just 2% of all children under six years of age and
14 only 5% of low-income children under six years of age are
15 receiving publicly funded, evidence-based home visiting
16 services; and

17 WHEREAS, Only 45% of subsidized children under five years of
18 age and 42% of subsidized infants and toddlers attend a high-
19 quality child care program; and

20 WHEREAS, Only 46% of child care capacity in this Commonwealth
21 meets high-quality standards; and

22 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of eligible children under five
23 years of age and 79% of eligible infants or toddlers are not
24 enrolled in the Child Care Works subsidized child care program;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Fifty-seven percent of eligible children, three and
27 four years of age, do not have access to high-quality
28 prekindergarten; and

29 WHEREAS, High-quality early childhood education depends on
30 high-quality early childhood educators who ensure that children,

1 supported by families, have the early experiences they need for
2 a strong foundation; and

3 WHEREAS, Early childhood educators and professionals should
4 be valued, respected and compensated for the crucial roles that
5 they play; and

6 WHEREAS, Payment rates provided to early childhood programs
7 to provide high-quality early care and education services to
8 low-income children do not cover the costs of quality; and

9 WHEREAS, The continued staffing crisis can be detrimental to
10 the development of young children and families' ability to work;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Young children need skilled, educated, competent and
13 consistent early childhood educators; and

14 WHEREAS, Working families need sufficient high-quality child
15 care spaces beginning at birth to be available in the community;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Early childhood educators need the ability to earn a
18 family-sustaining wage that is commensurate with the required
19 education and skills they bring to the complex and valuable work
20 they do; and

21 WHEREAS, The Senate acknowledges the 52nd anniversary of the
22 "Week of the Young Child" to advance the early childhood
23 education profession; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of April 2023
25 as "The Month of the Young Child" in Pennsylvania.