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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 176 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, BISHOP, BOBACK, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE,  
CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO,  
DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FARINA, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, HARHAI,  
A. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE,  
MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, McNEILL, MILLARD, O'BRIEN,  
C. PARKER, READSHAW, ROSS, ROZZI, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG,  
SCHWEYER, THOMAS, VEREB, WARD, WATSON, WHEELAND AND  
YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 24, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 24, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2015 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 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; and

1       WHEREAS, High-quality early learning and child development  
2 play a major role in a child's future success in school and in  
3 life; and

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

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

11       WHEREAS, Children attending high-quality early learning  
12 programs are better prepared for the competitive work force,  
13 including opportunities in 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 dollars by reducing the need for special  
22 education and remedial instruction and decreases drop-out rates,  
23 crime and 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 as a highly qualified work force is

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

2 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the number of high-quality learning  
3 programs in Pennsylvania falls short of meeting the needs of  
4 Pennsylvania children; 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, Children only have one early childhood experience,  
10 and delayed investments are lost opportunities; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
12 month of April 2015 as "The Month of the Young Child" in  
13 Pennsylvania and recognize that every child in Pennsylvania  
14 deserves access to high-quality early learning opportunities.