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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 371 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, BAKER, SCARNATI, PILEGGI, ERICKSON,  
ALLOWAY, VULAKOVICH, GREENLEAF, WASHINGTON, DINNIMAN,  
FARNESE, TEPLITZ, KASUNIC, STACK, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, BOSCOLA,  
HUGHES, SMITH AND BREWSTER, APRIL 30, 2014

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 30, 2014

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## 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  
16 play a major role in a child's future success in school and in  
17 life; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, Children attending high-quality early learning  
9 programs are better prepared for whichever career path they  
10 choose in the competitive work force, including opportunities in  
11 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 they have stable, affordable  
17 and high-quality early learning settings for their children; and

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

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

27 WHEREAS, Supporting and retaining a well-trained, early  
28 learning staff is critical because a highly qualified work force  
29 is an essential element of a high-quality program; and

30 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, there is still far too much unmet

1 need for high-quality learning programs in Pennsylvania; and

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

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

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