
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 751 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BULLOCK, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BRADFORD,
R. BROWN, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, DUSH, EVERETT, GIBBONS, HENNESSEY,
KILLION, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR,
MARSICO, McNEILL, MILLARD, MOUL, O'BRIEN, PAYNE, QUIGLEY,
READSHAW, ROSS, ROZZI, SACCONI, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHREIBER, SNYDER, SONNEY, THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON, WHEELAND
AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 18, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 18, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2016 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 has shown that children
8 receiving high-quality early education are more likely to be
9 prepared for and do better in school, graduate high school,
10 attend college 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, 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 2016 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.