
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 387 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY COSTA, JUNE 7, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 7, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of June 12 through 18, 2016, as
2 "Pennsylvania Family Center Network Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Family Centers are early childhood,
4 parent education and family support programs serving families
5 throughout pregnancy until children enter school; and

6 WHEREAS, Family centers promote the protective factors that
7 keep families strong by increasing parent knowledge and
8 practices, providing early detection of developmental delays and
9 health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, meeting
10 concrete needs, increasing children's school readiness and
11 school success, connecting families with each other and
12 increasing family involvement and leadership in the community;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, All young children and their families deserve the
15 same opportunities to succeed regardless of any demographic,
16 geographic or economic considerations; and

17 WHEREAS, Family center services are tailored to the resources
18 and needs of the communities served; and

1 WHEREAS, Family centers serve 4,733 families with 6,843
2 children enrolled in the Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting
3 program and hundreds more families with support services; and

4 WHEREAS, PAT is the evidence-based program used by all
5 Pennsylvania Family Centers; and

6 WHEREAS, PAT's vision is that all children will learn, grow
7 and develop to reach their full potential; and

8 WHEREAS, PAT's mission is to provide the information, support
9 and encouragement parents need to help children develop
10 optimally during the crucial early years of life; and

11 WHEREAS, Family centers affirm PAT's position that parents
12 are children's first and most influential teachers and that the
13 early years of life are critical for optimal development and
14 provide the foundation for success in school and life; and

15 WHEREAS, PAT is federally recognized as an evidence-based
16 model program because it meets rigorous standards for
17 effectiveness; and

18 WHEREAS, Family centers support goals related to economic
19 stability, healthy children in healthy homes and school
20 readiness of children through strength-based work with families,
21 including the use of the PAT model; and

22 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth invests more than \$3 million in
23 family centers; and

24 WHEREAS, More than 60% of Pennsylvania's population lives in
25 the 28 counties served by family centers in urban, rural and
26 suburban communities; and

27 WHEREAS, Sixty-five percent of the families served are
28 considered high risk due to low educational attainment, poverty
29 or disability; and

30 WHEREAS, Established and emerging research should be the

1 foundation of parent education and family support curricula,
2 training, materials and services; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of June 12
4 through 18, 2016, as "Pennsylvania Family Center Network Week"
5 in Pennsylvania.