

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 70 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, MARTIN, HUGHES, DINNIMAN, FONTANA,
FARNESE, SANTARSIERO, K. WARD, BAKER, SCHWANK, MENSCH,
KILLION, SABATINA, BLAKE, TARTAGLIONE, FOLMER, J. WARD,
BREWSTER, COSTA AND MUTH, APRIL 8, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 8, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 8 through 12, 2019, as the "Week of the Young
2 Child" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, From birth to five years of age, young children's
4 brains make at least 1 million neural connections every second
5 that form brain architecture for life; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, High-quality early care and education prepares
11 children to succeed in school, earn higher wages and live
12 healthier lives; and

13 WHEREAS, Participation in high-quality early care and
14 education saves taxpayer dollars, makes working families more
15 economically secure and is a revenue-generating investment over
16 time, benefiting society and the State and national economy; and

17 WHEREAS, Parents will always be the most important influence

1 on their children and 70% of children under six years of age in
2 Pennsylvania have all available parents in the workforce and
3 evidence-based programs that strengthen our families and ensure
4 access to high-quality early care and education are needed to
5 maximize children's potential in the first five years; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite the proven benefits of high-quality early
7 care and education, more eligible Pennsylvania children and
8 families need access to these services:

9 (1) Just 2% of all children under six years of age and
10 only 5% of low-income children under six years of age are
11 receiving publicly funded, evidence-based home visiting
12 programs;

13 (2) Only 37% of subsidized children under five years of
14 age and 34% of subsidized infants and toddlers are in high-
15 quality programs and only 21% of child care capacity in the
16 State currently meets high-quality standards;

17 (3) Seventy-three percent of eligible children under
18 five years of age and 77% of eligible infants or toddlers are
19 not enrolled in the Child Care Works subsidized child care
20 program and a waiting list of over 3,700 children exists as
21 of March 2019; and

22 (4) Fifty-six percent of eligible children three and
23 four years of age do not have access to high-quality
24 prekindergarten;

25 and

26 WHEREAS, High-quality early care and education depends on
27 high-quality programs and the educators and professionals who
28 ensure that children, supported by families, have the early
29 experiences they need for a strong start; and

30 WHEREAS, Early childhood educators and professionals should

1 be valued, respected and compensated for the important roles
2 they play; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize April 8 through 12, 2019,
4 as the "Week of the Young Child" in Pennsylvania.