
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 57 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, J. WARD, MARTIN, ARGALL, PITTMAN, VOGEL,
HUGHES, SCHWANK, COSTA, FONTANA, BARTOLOTTA, MENSCH, KEARNEY,
SCAVELLO, COLLETT, SANTARSIERO, STEFANO, YUDICHAK AND
COMITTA, MARCH 23, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 23, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 10 through 16, 2021, as "Week of the Young
2 Child" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 2021, we recognize the 50th anniversary of the
4 "Week of the Young Child"; and

5 WHEREAS, The "Week of the Young Child" is an annual
6 celebration sponsored by the National Association for the
7 Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early
8 childhood education association, with nearly 60,000 members and
9 a network of 51 local, state and regional affiliates; and

10 WHEREAS, NAEYC first established the "Week of the Young
11 Child" in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years, from
12 birth through eight years of age, lay the foundation for
13 children's success in school and later life; and

14 WHEREAS, The "Week of the Young Child" is a time to recognize
15 that children's opportunities are our responsibilities and to
16 recommit ourselves to ensuring that every child experiences the
17 type of early environment, at home, at child care, at school and

1 in the community, that will promote early learning; and

2 WHEREAS, The first years of a child's life are the period of
3 the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all
4 future learning; and

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

7 WHEREAS, High-quality early childhood programs provide
8 important benefits to children, families and our national and
9 state economies; and

10 WHEREAS, Participation in high-quality early childhood
11 education saves taxpayer dollars, makes working families more
12 economically secure and prepares children to succeed in school,
13 earn higher wages and live healthier lives; and

14 WHEREAS, Parents will always be the most important influence
15 on their children, and 71% of children under six years of age in
16 Pennsylvania have all available parents in the workforce; and

17 WHEREAS, Evidence-based programs that strengthen our families
18 and ensure access to high-quality early care and education are
19 needed to maximize children's potential in the first five years;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Despite the proven benefits of high-quality early
22 care and education, more eligible Pennsylvania children and
23 families need access to these services; and

24 WHEREAS, Only 2% of all children under six years of age and
25 only 5% of low-income children under six years of age are
26 receiving publicly funded, evidence-based home-visiting
27 services; and

28 WHEREAS, Only 41% of subsidized children under five years of
29 age and only 39% of subsidized infants and toddlers attend a
30 high-quality child care program, and only 42% of child care

1 capacity in this Commonwealth meets high-quality standards; and
2 WHEREAS, Approximately 81% of eligible children under five
3 years of age and 85% of eligible infants or toddlers are not
4 enrolled in the Child Care Works subsidized child care program;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 64% of eligible children who are three
7 and four years of age do not have access to high-quality
8 prekindergarten; and

9 WHEREAS, High-quality early childhood education depends on
10 high-quality early childhood educators who ensure that children,
11 supported by families, have the early experiences that they need
12 for a strong foundation; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize April 10 through 16,
14 2021, as "Week of the Young Child" in Pennsylvania.