

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2018 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 this Commonwealth; 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 the
14 development of all the skills they will need to succeed; and

15 WHEREAS, High-quality early learning and conditions for
16 optimal child development play a major role in a child's future
17 success in school and in life; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, Children attending high-quality early learning
9 programs are better prepared for the competitive work force,
10 including opportunities in law enforcement and the military; and

11 WHEREAS, High-quality early learning is especially beneficial
12 to children whose educational opportunities are hindered by
13 poverty or other circumstances; and

14 WHEREAS, Parents and guardians are able to be productive,
15 engaged and focused employees when their children are afforded a
16 stable and high-quality early learning environment at a
17 reasonable cost; and

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, The number of high-quality early learning programs
2 in this Commonwealth falls short of meeting the needs of
3 children in this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, Only one in six children is able to access high-
5 quality, publicly funded prekindergarten, and only 4.8% of child
6 care openings for children birth to four years of age are in the
7 highest quality STAR 4 or accredited programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Delayed investments in early childhood education are
9 lost opportunities; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
11 month of April 2018 as "The Month of the Young Child" in
12 Pennsylvania and recognize that each child in this Commonwealth
13 deserves access to high-quality early learning opportunities.

