

Senate Resolution 456

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing April 5-11 as the Week of the Young Child; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development
3 and lay the foundation for all future learning; and
- 4 WHEREAS, children's cognitive, physical, social-emotional, and language and literacy
5 development are built on a foundation of children's positive interactions with adults, peers,
6 and their environment; and
- 7 WHEREAS, high-quality early childhood programs provide important benefits to children,
8 families, and our state and national economies; and
- 9 WHEREAS, high-quality early care and education can help ameliorate the effects of poverty,
10 detect and remediate delays, identify and help prevent child neglect, and lead to positive
11 outcomes for individual children, helping them be better prepared for school and more likely
12 to succeed in life; and

13 WHEREAS, high-quality early childhood education depends on high-quality early childhood
14 educators who ensure that children, supported by families, have the early experiences they
15 need for a strong foundation; and

16 WHEREAS, tuition from fee-paying parents and subsidy rates for families with low incomes
17 are typically insufficient to afford highly-qualified, consistent early childhood educators and
18 pay for the low child-to-educator ratios that ensure the health and safety of children; and

19 WHEREAS, young children need early childhood educators who are incentivized and
20 supported to provide high-quality care to those with high and special needs; and

21 WHEREAS, working families need sufficient high-quality childcare spaces beginning at
22 birth to be available in the community; and

23 WHEREAS, early childhood educators need the ability to earn a family-sustaining wage that
24 is commensurate with the required education and skills they bring to the complex and
25 valuable work they do; and

26 WHEREAS, it is urged by members of our community to support efforts that increase
27 children's and families access to high-quality early childhood education and commit to
28 investments that stabilize, sustain, and support childcare and early learning so this essential
29 workforce can continue to support children, families, and our economy through the pandemic
30 crisis, recovery, and beyond.

31 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 hereby recognize the complex, valuable, essential, and demanding work of the early
33 childhood educators and recognize, April 5-11 as The Week of the Young Child.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to The Week of the
36 Young Children community members and other parities.