



SR0954

LRB102 27113 MST 38539 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning; children's cognitive, physical, social and emotional, and language and literacy development are built on the foundation of positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment; and

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WHEREAS, There are 916,880 children birth through age five in our State, 19% of whom live in families with incomes at or below 100% Federal Poverty Level; and

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WHEREAS, In Illinois, 69% of children have all available parents in the workforce; and

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

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WHEREAS, High-quality early care and education can help ameliorate the effects of poverty, detect and remediate delays, identify and help prevent child neglect, and lead to positive outcomes for individual children, helping them be better prepared for school and more likely to succeed in life; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Many early childhood educators do not have
6 equitable, affordable access to needed early childhood
7 education credentials and degrees; in Illinois, 70% of
8 licensed early childhood educators have earned degrees; and

9 WHEREAS, Tuition from fee-paying parents and subsidy rates
10 for families with low incomes are typically insufficient to
11 afford consistent early childhood education with
12 highly-qualified early childhood educators and low
13 child-to-early educator ratios that ensure the health and
14 safety of children; and

15 WHEREAS, Payment rates provided to early childhood
16 educators to provide high-quality early care and education
17 services to low-income children do not cover the costs of
18 quality; and

19 WHEREAS, The lack of sufficient public investment in the
20 face of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced child care programs,
21 educators, and families into a series of impossible choices

1 with devastating consequences; and

2 WHEREAS, The essential yet chronically undervalued child
3 care sector has sacrificed and struggled to serve children and
4 families since the start of the COVID pandemic; therefore, be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 2-8,
8 2022 as the Week of the Young Child and April 30, 2022 as El
9 Dia Del Niño (Children's Day) in the State of Illinois; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That we recognize the complex, valuable,
12 essential, and demanding work of early childhood educators and
13 recognize that when our society invests in educators, we also
14 invest in children and families; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge all communities to support efforts
16 that increase access to high-quality early childhood education
17 for all children and families.