



SR0235

LRB103 32137 MST 61187 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 THIRD GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 1-7,  
8 2023 as the Week of the Young Child and April 30, 2023 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.