

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-28

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 7, 2023

To recognize the month of April 2023 as “The Month of the Young Child” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, children’s cognitive, physical, social and emotional, and language and literacy development are built on a foundation of children’s positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment;

WHEREAS, a high percentage of mothers in the District return to work in the first 6 weeks after the birth of a child;

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;

WHEREAS, thirty-four percent of early childhood educators in the District earn poverty-level wages and do not have basic workplace benefits such as health insurance and paid sick leave;

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

WHEREAS, young children need skilled, educated, competent, consistent, and compensated early childhood educators;

WHEREAS, working families need sufficient high-quality child care spaces beginning at birth to be available in the community;

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

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WHEREAS, we celebrate the month of April as the Month of the Young Child so that we may continue to recognize and advance the early childhood profession.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Month of the Young Child Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes and honors the work of early childhood educators and continues to support children, families, and our economy through the pandemic crisis, recovery, and beyond.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.