

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

18-89

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 5, 2009

To recognize the importance of the critical years of child development, from birth through age 12, in the lives of children, their families, and the community, and to designate April 2009 as the "Month of the Young Child" in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child promotes early care and education as one of the most important economic and education issues facing the District of Columbia and the nation;

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child calls upon the public and private sectors to collaborate and celebrate April 2009 as the month of the young child, in addition to focusing their attention on the critical years of child development;

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child recognizes public funding for early care and education has been increasingly identified by leading economists as one of the most significant investments states can make for the long-term benefit of their respective economies;

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child identifies decades of research that shows experiences in the earliest years of life play a critical role in a child's ability to grow up healthy and prepared to succeed in school and life;

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child recognizes national longitudinal studies that have proved investments in early care and education benefit society because children exposed to high-quality early care and education are more ready for school, perform better on standardized achievement tests, graduate from high school at higher rates; and receive the tools needed to become productive members of society;

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child promotes research that has clearly determined high-quality care and education increases school preparedness, reduces enrollment in special education and grade retention, and increases high school graduation rates;

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child acknowledges leading economists who confirmed quality early care and education is a positive and cost-effective investment for the

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future, which results in subsequent benefits, such as lower criminal justice system costs, savings for crime victims, and on school remedial services budgets;

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child salutes President Barak Obama for making early childhood education a key priority of his administration – recognizing that “Closing the achievement gap involves making sure that children are prepared the day they come to school”; and

WHEREAS, Month of the Young Child calls upon the residents of the District of Columbia to support increasing numbers of high quality, diverse, inclusive, culturally appropriate, accessible and affordable early care and education opportunities in the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as “Month of the Young Child Month Declaration Resolution of 2009”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes April 2009 as the “Month of the Young Child” in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.