



SPONSOR: Sen. Gay & Sen. Pettyjohn & Rep. S. Moore &  
Rep. Michael Smith & Rep. Wilson-Anton  
Sens. Hocker, Pinkney, Poore, Sokola, Wilson; Reps.  
Baumbach, Bush, Dorsey Walker, Heffernan, K. Johnson,  
Lambert, Minor-Brown, D. Short

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

RECOGNIZING APRIL 2 THROUGH 9, 2022, AS "WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD" IN DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, in 2022, we recognize the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the "Week of the Young Child"; and

2 WHEREAS, the "Week of the Young Child" is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for  
3 the Education of Young Children ("NAEYC"), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly  
4 60,000 members and a network of 51 local, state, and regional affiliates, including the Delaware Association for the  
5 Education of Young Children; and

6 WHEREAS, NAEYC first established the "Week of the Young Child" in 1971, recognizing that the early  
7 childhood years, from birth through 8 years of age, lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life; and

8 WHEREAS, the "Week of the Young Child" is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our  
9 responsibilities and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that every child experiences the type of early environment, at home,  
10 at child care, at school, and in the community, that will promote early learning; and

11 WHEREAS, the first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the  
12 foundation for all future learning; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, paying the costs of high-quality early childhood education is a revenue-generating investment over  
19 time, resulting in a broad range of benefits that accrue to individuals and society at large; and

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

22 WHEREAS, young children need skilled, educated, competent, consistent, and compensated early childhood  
23 educators, who reflect a rich diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural identities; and

24 WHEREAS, working families need an early childhood education system that allows them access to quality child  
25 care settings and need sufficient high-quality child care spaces beginning at birth available in the community; and

26 WHEREAS, a strong regulatory structure is needed to give working families peace of mind that their children are  
27 safe and in high-quality early care and education settings, and robust subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits are needed for  
28 families at all income levels that support the true cost of quality early childhood education; and

29 WHEREAS, early childhood educators need the ability to earn a family-sustaining wage that is commensurate  
30 with the required education and skills they bring to the complex and valuable work they do and to have basic workplace  
31 benefits such as health insurance, retirement, paid sick leave, paid vacation, and professional development leave.

32 NOW, THEREFORE:

33 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the 151<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
34 Representatives concurring therein, recognizes April 2 through 8, 2022, as "Week of the Young Child" in Delaware.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives hereby  
36 recognize the complex, valuable, and demanding work of early childhood educators and urge all members of our  
37 community to support efforts that increase children and families' access to high-quality early childhood education.

#### SYNOPSIS

This resolution recognizes April 2 through 8, 2022 as "Week of the Young Child" in Delaware.

Author: Senator Gay