

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR ALARIO

A RESOLUTION

To commend Ready Louisiana and to recognize Monday, March 26, 2018, as Early Education Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, Ready Louisiana is a coalition of over forty businesses, educational, advocacy, parent, and community organizations, seeking adequate funding for quality, affordable early child care and education in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, members of the Ready Louisiana coalition are committed to working together to ensure that young children in our state have access to high quality early care and education that meets their needs, prepares them for success in school, and allows their families to continue their training and work; and

WHEREAS, ninety percent of brain development happens between birth and age four; and

WHEREAS, because these early years are when the very foundation of the brain is built, children who begin school behind generally remain behind; and

WHEREAS, over forty percent of children in Louisiana enter kindergarten already behind; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has dramatically cut its only state administered early care and education program for children under age four, the Child Care Assistance Program, from serving almost 40,000 children in 2009 to serving 17,000 children today; and

WHEREAS, only fifteen percent of potentially eligible young children under age four can access any publicly funded early care and education program in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Child Care Assistance Program now has a waiting list of over 4,000 children; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana spends less than one-half of one percent of its state general funds on early care and education; and

WHEREAS, the research has shown that there can be a thirteen percent return on investment in quality birth through age four education; and

WHEREAS, over two-thirds of young children in Louisiana have both parents, or their single parent, in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, child care costs are comparable to public college annual tuition; and

WHEREAS, child care breakdowns have been shown to have a substantial impact on Louisiana workforce participation and productivity, causing over sixteen percent of parents of young children in the state to quit their jobs, almost fourteen percent to turn down a promotion and over seven percent to be fired; and

WHEREAS, child care issues have resulted in more than \$1.1 billion loss for Louisiana's economy; and

WHEREAS, the over forty organizations from across Louisiana that comprise Ready Louisiana are working to provide access to high quality early learning programs that will improve child outcomes, strengthen our families and workforce, and build our economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ready Louisiana and does hereby recognize Monday, March 26, 2018, as Early Education Day at the state capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ready Louisiana.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE