

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 208

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Friday, May 11, 2018, as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the second Sunday in May has long been recognized as the day to honor mothers and their commitment to children; and

WHEREAS, May 11, 2018, the Friday before Mother's Day, has been nationally designated as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, a day set aside to recognize child care providers, teachers, school-age program staff, child care center directors and staff, and all those who work with children and are responsible for their education and care; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that nearly eleven million children under age five are cared for by 2.8 million child care providers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Child Care Provider Appreciation Day began in 1996 when a group of volunteers in New Jersey saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for the children of working parents; and

WHEREAS, momentum and support for this event has grown each year, and individuals and government organizations throughout North America, Europe, and Asia are recognized for the dedication and care provided to children; and

WHEREAS, of the twenty million children under age five in America, nearly eleven million are in some form of child care setting; and

WHEREAS, the Child Care Association of Louisiana, a statewide, nonprofit organization, represents the interests of licensed child care providers and children they serve, and wholeheartedly endorses and promotes Child Care Provider Appreciation Day; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Child Care Association of Louisiana is to educate, advocate, and collaborate to build a premier, proactive child care industry for Louisiana families; and

WHEREAS, by calling attention to the importance of high quality child care services for all children and families within the state, the Child Care Association of Louisiana and other advocacy organizations hope to improve the quality and availability of such services; and

WHEREAS, our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided today to our children; high quality early child care services represent a worthy commitment to their futures; and

WHEREAS, in the words of Jonathan Pearce, president of the Child Care Association of Louisiana: "Every child should have access to a high quality early childhood educational program and be prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Friday, May 11, 2018, as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day in Louisiana and does hereby urge all citizens to recognize licensed child care providers for their important work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jonathan Pearce, president of the Child Care Association of Louisiana, and Cindy Bishop, executive director of the Child Care Association of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE