

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY SENATOR APPEL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Jenna Conway for her years of service with the state Department of Education and to the children of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Louisiana Legislature passed the Early Childhood Care and Education Act (Act 3) which consolidated all early childhood care and education programs in the state under the state Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, with the goal of ensuring that all children served in publicly funded settings become ready for kindergarten and successfully transition to elementary school; and

WHEREAS, soon after the passage of Act 3 of 2012, Jenna Conway was appointed to serve as assistant superintendent for early childhood care and education at the state Department of Education, tasked with implementing the new law and providing leadership and support for all early childhood care and education programs in the state, including those operated by child care centers, public and non-public schools, Head Start grantees, and other individuals and organizations receiving public funds; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Conway faithfully and diligently worked with stakeholders, policymakers, providers, educators, and families to successfully implement Act 3 and other subsequent early childhood care and education laws, including but not limited to the transition of numerous child care licensing staff from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services to the state Department of Education, streamlining and strengthening child care licensing regulations, enacting a state definition of kindergarten readiness, developing Louisiana's Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards, adopting nationally recognized assessments to evaluate and support quality child care and education, increasing and redefining School Readiness Tax Credits to more effectively support quality, creating an ancillary teaching certification for early childhood educators, expanding the Child Care Assistance Program to serve more Louisiana children and families, and unifying enrollment processes for publicly funded early childhood care and education programs within communities around the state; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Ms. Conway led the creation of a first of its kind, nationally recognized online tool designed to help families more easily locate and evaluate the quality of child care centers and prekindergarten programs by publishing performance profiles for all publicly funded early childhood programs in the state; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Conway's direction and unwavering commitment to improving early childhood care and education for Louisiana's children and families have led to the creation of the nation's most focused, innovative, and results-oriented early childhood care and education systems and the strongest such system in Louisiana's history; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Conway is exceedingly deserving of commendation and appreciation for her outstanding achievements and service, which have set Louisiana's children on a better lifelong path and a brighter future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commend Jenna Conway for her outstanding service with the state Department of Education and to the children and families of Louisiana, and does hereby extend to her appreciation and best wishes for continued success and happiness in all future endeavors.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ms. Jenna Conway.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE