

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes May 21, 2019, as Early Ed Day at the state capitol and commends Ready Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Tuesday, May 21, 2019, as Early Ed Day at the state capitol and to commend
3 Ready Louisiana.

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

6 WHEREAS, childcare costs are comparable to annual tuition rates paid to a public
7 college; and

8 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, childcare breakdowns have been demonstrated to have a
9 substantial impact on workforce and productivity, and cause more than sixteen percent of
10 parents of young children to quit their jobs, almost fourteen percent to turn down a
11 promotion, and more than seven percent to be fired; and

12 WHEREAS, childcare issues have resulted in more than \$1.1 billion in losses for
13 Louisiana's economy; and

14 WHEREAS, Ready Louisiana is a coalition of more than sixty business, educational,
15 advocacy, parent, and community organizations that seeks adequate funding for quality and
16 affordable early child care and education in Louisiana; and

17 WHEREAS, members of the Ready Louisiana coalition are committed to working
18 together to ensure that young children have access to high-quality early care and education
19 that meets their needs, prepares them for success in school, and allows their families to train
20 and work for the betterment of their families; and

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

3 WHEREAS, because the brain is built in these early years, children who begin school
4 behind their peers generally remain behind them for the remainder of their school years; and

5 WHEREAS, in recent years, Louisiana has cut its only state-administered early care
6 and education program for children, the Child Care Assistance Program from serving almost
7 40,000 children in 2009 to serving 15,000 children today; and

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

10 WHEREAS, at present, the Child Care Assistance Program has a waiting list of over
11 3,500 children, and there are an additional 2,000 children who are authorized to benefit from
12 the program but are unable to do so because of lack of funding; and

13 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, less than one-half of one percent of state general funds are
14 spent on early care and education; and

15 WHEREAS, research has demonstrated a thirteen percent return on state investment
16 in quality early care and education programs; and

17 WHEREAS, the over sixty organizations from across Louisiana that comprise Ready
18 Louisiana are working to provide access to high-quality early learning programs that will
19 improve child outcomes, strengthen the state's families and the workforce, and build
20 Louisiana's economy.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Tuesday, May 21, 2019, as Early Ed Day
23 at the state capitol and does hereby commend Ready Louisiana for its efforts to improve
24 early care and education for children in Louisiana.

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 171 Original

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