

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 261

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANA HENRY

A RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, May 12, 2026, as A Day Without Child Care at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, early childhood education (ECE) represents education from birth to kindergarten; it is the workforce behind the workforce and supports the employment of tens of thousands of working Louisiana parents; and

WHEREAS, ECE is significantly underfunded, which leaves many families unable to access necessary care and causes some early childhood educators to leave the field because they cannot earn a livable wage; and

WHEREAS, the lack of ECE leaves families, providers, and businesses vulnerable; childcare disruptions cost Louisiana's economy \$1.3 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, For Providers By Providers (4PXP) is Louisiana's only provider-led ECE organization and leads the statewide coordination of the National Day Without Child Care to elevate the voices of educators, families, and providers; and

WHEREAS, early childhood educators, parents, families, and caregivers have been fighting for generations to achieve equitable access to affordable child care, better pay, and working conditions for providers; and

WHEREAS, fewer than half of child care providers offer paid sick leave to staff, and fewer than one-third provide health insurance or retirement benefits, which highlights the ongoing challenges in ensuring a stable and supported early childhood workforce; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of the childcare providers who lost staff in 2024 reported that departing employees left for jobs offering higher wages, and lower-paying providers experienced staff turnover at higher rates than those able to offer more competitive compensation; and

WHEREAS, most child care providers report increased staffing costs or challenges, including the need to pay higher wages and hire less experienced staff; these providers also experience significant turnover because new staff leave within six months of starting; and

WHEREAS, early childhood educators earn an average of \$10.63 per hour in Louisiana, which makes them among the lowest-paid professionals in the education sector, despite the critical role they play in supporting children's development and learning during the most formative years; and

WHEREAS, many early childhood teachers qualify for public assistance programs, which highlights the disconnect between the value of their work and the compensation they receive; and

WHEREAS, inadequate pay contributes to high turnover rates among early childhood educators and disrupts the stability and quality of care that young children need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, low wages make it difficult to recruit and retain skilled and passionate professionals in the early childhood education workforce, which places an additional strain on child care providers and families; and

WHEREAS, the lack of accessible high-quality early childhood education hinders Louisiana's capacity to attract and keep young professionals, which results in a loss of talent in the workforce, particularly in vital sectors like healthcare and education; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2026, child care providers, teachers, families, and community members across Louisiana are joining the National Day Without Child Care to raise awareness about the urgent need for investment in early childhood education and to advocate for a fully funded child care system that powers the economy and supports working families; and

WHEREAS, investment in early childhood education plays a critical role in supporting Louisiana's working families, strengthening businesses, growing the state's economy, building a more prosperous future for all communities, and ensuring every child has a strong start in life; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education is a foundational part of Louisiana's economic infrastructure and is as essential as roads, electricity, water, and broadband; it must be prioritized and funded accordingly to maximize the state's potential for growth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, May 12, 2026, as A Day Without Child Care Day at the state capitol and does hereby express enduring appreciation for the outstanding contributions of the state's early childhood education providers.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES