

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes March 26, 2018, as United Way Women United Day at the state capitol and commends Women United for its dedication to the advancement of early childhood care and education

## 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Monday, March 26, 2018, as United Way Women United Day at the state  
3 capitol and to commend Women United for its support of early childhood care and  
4 education in Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, the Child Care Assistance Program, or CCAP, is the only state  
6 administered early childhood care and education program for children under age four; and

7           WHEREAS, in recent years, Louisiana has dramatically cut funding for the CCPA  
8   such that the program has gone from serving almost 40,000 children in 2009 to serving  
9   17,000 today; and

10 WHEREAS, Louisiana spends less than one-half of one percent of its state general  
11 funds on early childhood care and education, and only fifteen percent of eligible children  
12 under age four can access a publicly funded early childhood care and education program in  
13 Louisiana; and

14 WHEREAS, lack of child care has been shown to have a substantial impact on  
15 workforce participation and productivity in the state, causing more than sixteen percent of  
16 parents of young children to quit their jobs, almost fourteen percent to turn down a  
17 promotion, and more than seven percent to be fired; and

18           WHEREAS, because ninety percent of brain development happens between birth and  
19   age four, children who do not begin school during these years generally lag behind their  
20   peers; and

1 WHEREAS, Women United and its network of business and community leaders have  
2 led efforts to begin to address these great challenges and have invested more than \$2.4  
3 million to remedy these problems at the local level; and

4 WHEREAS, Women United's volunteers have invested tens of thousands of hours  
5 to address the most critical issues facing women and children in Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, Women United became the first women's organization in the nation to  
7 launch Success By Six, an early childhood development program that has helped to elevate  
8 a number of child care centers to nationally-accredited centers of excellence; and

9 WHEREAS, United Way Worldwide has recognized Women United as one of the  
10 top three women's initiatives in the nation for program innovation; and

11 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Education has identified Women United  
12 as a partner in its efforts to expand access to quality early childhood care and education to  
13 all children; and

14 WHEREAS, Women United assisted in the establishment of the Louisiana Early  
15 Childhood Care and Education Network, which has helped to unify the state's early  
16 childhood education programs and has helped families to identify quality childcare  
17 providers; and

18 WHEREAS, Women United's investments in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading  
19 reflects its commitment to ensuring that all children can read at grade level by the end of  
20 third grade; and

21 WHEREAS, Women United's advocacy efforts helped create the Louisiana Early  
22 Childhood Education Fund and also helped to save Louisiana families millions of dollars by  
23 helping to preserve and increase the School Readiness Tax Credit; and

24 WHEREAS, countless private-public partnerships organized by Women United have  
25 been responsible for millions of dollars invested in helping children succeed in school; and

26 WHEREAS, on March 26, Women United will visit the state capitol as part of the  
27 Ready Louisiana Coalition to support public investment in Louisiana's children.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
29 recognize March 26, 2018, as United Way Women United Day at the state capitol and does

1 hereby commend Women United for fifteen years of dedication to the advancement of early  
2 childhood care and education in the state of Louisiana.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
4 to the president of Women United.

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#### 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)]

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HCR 16 Original

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Leger

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