

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR ALARIO

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Commends Ready Louisiana and recognizes March 26, 2018, as Early Education Day at the state capitol.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Ready Louisiana and to recognize Monday, March 26, 2018, as Early
3 Education Day at the state capitol.

4 WHEREAS, Ready Louisiana is a coalition of over forty businesses, educational,
5 advocacy, parent and community organizations, seeking adequate funding for quality,
6 affordable early child care and education in Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, members of the Ready Louisiana coalition are committed to working
8 together to ensure that young children in our state have access to high quality early care and
9 education that meets their needs, prepares them for success in school, and allows their
10 families to continue their training and work; and

11 WHEREAS, ninety percent of brain development happens between birth and age
12 four; and

13 WHEREAS, because these early years are when the very foundation of the brain is
14 built, children who begin school behind generally remain behind; and

15 WHEREAS, over forty percent of children in Louisiana enter kindergarten already
16 behind; and

17 WHEREAS, Louisiana has dramatically cut its only state administered early care and
18 education program for children under age four, the Child Care Assistance Program, from

1 serving almost 40,000 children in 2009 to serving 17,000 children today; and

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

4 WHEREAS, the Child Care Assistance Program now has a waiting list of over 4,000
5 children; and

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana spends less than one-half of one percent of its state general
7 funds on early care and education; and

8 WHEREAS, the research has shown that there can be a thirteen percent return on
9 investment in quality birth through age four education; and

10 WHEREAS, over two-thirds of young children in Louisiana have both parents, or
11 their single parent, in the workforce; and

12 WHEREAS, child care costs are comparable to public college annual tuition; and

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

17 WHEREAS, child care issues have resulted in more than \$1.1 billion loss for
18 Louisiana's economy; and

19 WHEREAS, the over forty organizations from across Louisiana that comprise Ready
20 Louisiana are working to provide access to high quality early learning programs that will
21 improve child outcomes, strengthen our families and workforce, and build our economy.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
23 does hereby commend Ready Louisiana and does hereby recognize Monday, March 26,
24 2018, as Early Education Day at the state capitol.

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

