

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY REPRESENTATIVE NANCY LANDRY

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana passed Act No. 3 in the 2012 Regular Session, named the Early Childhood Care and Education Act, which consolidated all early childhood care and education programs under the state Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure that children served in publicly funded settings would be prepared for kindergarten and a successful transition to elementary school; and

WHEREAS, soon after the passage of Act No. 3, Jenna Conway was appointed to serve as assistant superintendent for early childhood care and education at the state Department of Education; Ms. Conway was tasked with implementing the new law and providing leadership and support for the early childhood care and education programs in the state, including those operated by child care centers, public and nonpublic schools, Head Start grantees, and other individuals and organizations receiving public funds; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Conway diligently worked with stakeholders, policymakers, providers, educators, and families to successfully implement Act No. 3 and other subsequent early childhood care and education laws; she was responsible for the transition of numerous child care licensing staff from the 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 children and families, and unifying enrollment processes for publicly funded early childhood care and education programs in 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; and

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

WHEREAS, it is fitting to commend the outstanding achievements of Jenna Conway in the field of early childhood education; her service has put Louisiana's children on a better lifelong path and a brighter future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives 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 enduring appreciation and best wishes for continued success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jenna Conway.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES