

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES