

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 261

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANA HENRY

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates May 12, 2026, as A Day Without Child Care at the state capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, nearly half of the childcare providers who lost staff in 2024 reported
21 that departing employees left for jobs offering higher wages, and lower-paying providers

1 experienced staff turnover at higher rates than those able to offer more competitive
2 compensation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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