

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY SENATORS JACKSON-ANDREWS AND BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, May 12, 2025, as a Day Without Child Care at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, early childhood education is the workforce behind the workforce, supporting the employment of tens of thousands of working Louisiana parents; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education, from birth to kindergarten, is significantly underfunded, resulting in many families unable to access necessary care; moreover, some early educators leave the field because they cannot earn a livable wage; and

WHEREAS, this leaves families, providers, and businesses vulnerable, and costs Louisiana's economy \$1.3 billion each year because of child care disruptions; and

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

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

WHEREAS, less than half of child care providers offer staff paid sick days, and fewer than one-third provide health insurance or retirement benefits, highlighting the ongoing challenges in ensuring a stable and supported early childhood education workforce; and

WHEREAS, among child care providers who lost staff in 2024, nearly half reported that departing employees left for jobs offering higher wages, with lower-paying providers experiencing staff turnover at higher rates than those able to offer more competitive compensation; and

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

WHEREAS, early childhood educators are among the lowest-paid professionals in the education sector, earning an average of \$10.63 an hour in Louisiana, despite the critical role they play in supporting children's development and learning during the most formative years; and

WHEREAS, many early childhood teachers earn wages so low that they qualify for public assistance programs themselves, highlighting the disconnect between the value of their work and the compensation they receive; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2025, child care providers, teachers, families, and community members across Louisiana are joining the National Day Without Child Care to raise awareness about the urgent need for investment in early childhood education and to advocate for a fully funded child care system that powers the economy and supports working families; and

WHEREAS, investing in early childhood education is critical to supporting Louisiana's working families, strengthening businesses and growing the state's economy, ensuring every child has a strong start in life, and building a more prosperous future for all communities; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education is as essential to a functioning economy as roads, power, water, and broadband, and must be funded as critical infrastructure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, May 12, 2025, as A Day Without Child Care Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of For Providers By Providers.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE