

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, May 12, 2026, as A Day Without Child Care Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, early childhood educators make up the workforce that supports the employment of tens of thousands of working Louisiana parents; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education, from birth to kindergarten, is significantly underfunded causing educators to leave the field to earn livable wages, resulting in many families unable to access necessary care; and

WHEREAS, disruption in child care leaves families, providers, and businesses vulnerable and costs Louisiana's economy one billion three hundred million dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, For Providers By Providers (4PXP), Louisiana's only provider-led early care in education (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 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 ability to pay higher wages and hire experienced staff and experience high turnover as new staff leave within six months of employment; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education is essential to a functioning economy and 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 during a child's formative years in supporting the child's development and learning; and

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

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

WHEREAS, low wages often 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 Tuesday, May 12, 2026, child care providers, educators, 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, which would build a more prosperous future for all communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, May 12, 2026, as A Day Without Child Care Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

SR NO. 115

ENROLLED

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE