

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Monday, March 26, 2018, as United Way Women United Day at the state capitol and to commend Women United for its support of early childhood care and education in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Child Care Assistance Program, or CCAP, is the only state administered early childhood care and education program for children under age four; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Louisiana has dramatically cut funding for the CCPA such that the program has gone from serving almost 40,000 children in 2009 to serving 17,000 today; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana spends less than one-half of one percent of its state general funds on early childhood care and education, and only fifteen percent of eligible children under age four can access a publicly funded early childhood care and education program in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, lack of child care has been shown to have a substantial impact on workforce participation and productivity in the state, causing 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, because ninety percent of brain development happens between birth and age four, children who do not begin school during these years generally lag behind their peers; and

WHEREAS, Women United and its network of business and community leaders have led efforts to begin to address these great challenges and have invested more than \$2.4 million to remedy these problems at the local level; and

WHEREAS, Women United's volunteers have invested tens of thousands of hours to address the most critical issues facing women and children in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Women United became the first women's organization in the nation to launch Success By Six, an early childhood development program that has helped to elevate a number of child care centers to nationally-accredited centers of excellence; and

WHEREAS, United Way Worldwide has recognized Women United as one of the top three women's initiatives in the nation for program innovation; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Education has identified Women United as a partner in its efforts to expand access to quality early childhood care and education to all children; and

WHEREAS, Women United assisted in the establishment of the Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network, which has helped to unify the state's early childhood education programs and has helped families to identify quality childcare providers; and

WHEREAS, Women United's investments in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading reflects its commitment to ensuring that all children can read at grade level by the end of third grade; and

WHEREAS, Women United's advocacy efforts helped create the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund and also helped to save Louisiana families millions of dollars by helping to preserve and increase the School Readiness Tax Credit; and

WHEREAS, countless private-public partnerships organized by Women United have been responsible for millions of dollars invested in helping children succeed in school; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, Women United will visit the state capitol as part of the Ready Louisiana Coalition to support public investment in Louisiana's children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize March 26, 2018, as United Way Women United Day at the state capitol and does hereby commend Women United for fifteen years of dedication to the advancement of early childhood care and education in the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of Women United.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE