

No. R-148. House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding efforts of those who provide child development services in Vermont and work on behalf of our youngest citizens.

(H.C.R.97)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Royalton, Campion of Bennington, Deen of Westminster, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Ellis of Waterbury, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, McCullough of Williston, Mook of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Stuart of Brattleboro, Trieber of Rockingham, Wizowaty of Burlington and Woodward of Johnson

Whereas, today's young children are tomorrow's voters, workers, taxpayers, and parents, and

Whereas, a good start helps ensure both a child's and Vermont's future prosperity, and

Whereas, science tells us that early experiences establish the architecture of a child's developing brain, and the nurturing individualized support of adults at home and in the community will build a strong foundation for children's growth and development, and

Whereas, the quality of early childhood experiences establishes either a sturdy or fragile foundation for all development that follows, and

Whereas, child development is community development as well as economic development, as healthy, capable children are the building blocks of a solid and productive society, and

Whereas, we must work together to meet their needs to ensure that all Vermont children grow into solid community members and active participants in our economy, and

Whereas, with 71 percent of Vermont children under five years old in the care of someone other than their parents for at least part of the day, child care providers, other early childhood professionals, and early childhood organizations play a crucial role in Vermont's meeting children's needs, and

Whereas, these individuals and organizations are essential to the state's economic growth, contributing to the creation or support of thousands of jobs, and

Whereas, concerned Vermonters will gather at the State House on March 16, 2011 to inform their state legislators that high-quality early childhood care, health, and education services must be accessible and affordable for all Vermonters, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honor the outstanding work of all those who care for, educate, and advocate for our children in Vermont, many of whom are visiting the state house on March 16, 2011, which is Early Childhood Day at the statehouse, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Building Bright Futures State Council and to the sponsoring organizations of the Kids Are Priority One Early Childhood Coalition,

including Voices for Vermont's Children, Windham Child Care, Vermont Family Network, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, Mama Says, and the Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council.