

No. R-161. House concurrent resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of Robin's Nest Children's Center in Burlington's Old North End.

(H.C.R.137)

Offered by Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Duke of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington

Whereas, the origin of Robin's Nest Children's Center (Robin's Nest), a special place for the youngest children to learn and play in a welcoming and supportive environment, dates from the spring of 1985 when a Burlington early childhood program announced its closure, and

Whereas, this decision impacted the parents of the enrolled youngsters, whose daily lives depended on the availability of a trusted child care facility, and the staff who would lose their jobs, and

Whereas, in response to this pending familial and employment dilemma, a group of parents coalesced to develop a replacement option, resulting in the creation of Robin's Nest, and

Whereas, their goal was to establish "a program where children received quality early education, families could find support through a diverse community with others who looked like their own, and a place where early educators would be respectfully compensated," and

Whereas, this collaborative planning process proved productive, and later in 1985, Robin's Nest opened its doors to "provide quality care and education in multi-age groups with high ratios of adults to children...[enabling] children to travel through developmental stages at their own rate and to learn from one another," and

Whereas, this core objective is reflected in Robin's Nest's mission to "provide a play-based environment for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; nurturing minds, friendships, and families," and

Whereas, in 2025, Robin's Nest marks 40 years of early childhood care and educational excellence and now serves 31 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, representing 23 families, with the caring support of nine dedicated teachers, and

Whereas, the diverse enrolled population includes 35 percent who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color) and 65 percent receive monetary support from the State's Child Care Financial Assistance Program, and

Whereas, the vision of 40 years ago remains a thriving reality, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the 40th anniversary of Robin's Nest Children's Center in Burlington's Old North End, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Robin's Nest.