

House Concurrent Resolution No. 31

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3829L.011

Whereas, children deserve a healthy and safe beginning in life:

2 (1) Prior to the age of three, 85% of a child's brain structure is formed;

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4 (2) The quality of early childhood programs affect the social, emotional, and academic
5 outcomes of children; and

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7 **Whereas**, families are the first and most important teachers in a child's life. Sixty-
8 four percent of mothers with children under the age of six and sixty percent of mothers with
9 children under the age of two are employed outside the home:

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11 (1) Early childhood education programs allow parents to work and support their families;

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13 (2) Working families support Missouri's economy;

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15 (3) On average, children from birth to eight years of age spend 40 hours a week in early
16 childhood programs;

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18 (4) The working poor cannot bear the cost of early education alone. An adequately
19 funded child care subsidy program is necessary to support families' ability to secure early
20 childhood services for their children; and

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22 **Whereas**, early childhood programs have a significant impact on the State's current
23 and future economy, parents' ability to work, and the healthy development and school readiness
24 of Missouri's young children:

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26 (1) Early childhood programs employ 34,000 people in 5,000 small businesses and
27 supports 120,000 workers in other industries. Combined gross annual receipts total \$635 million
28 and 181,000 children are being prepared for long-term workplace success;

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30 (2) High-quality early childhood programs provide children with a safe, nurturing, and
31 stimulating environment, which helps them gain the skills needed for school and to become
32 productive adults;

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34 (3) Research indicates a savings of \$17 for every \$1 spent on supporting children and
35 families with well-designed programming; and

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37 **Whereas**, well-trained and adequately compensated early childhood professionals
38 are critical to the provision of quality early learning experiences:

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40 (1) Teacher education is a vital aspect of quality early childhood programs, however,
41 approximately 65% of Missouri's early childhood professionals do not have adequate formal
42 education;

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44 (2) A stable workforce is crucial to ensure that young children's well being and
45 development is supported through consistent teacher-child relationships. Therefore, measures
46 must be taken to reduce the alarming 23% teacher turnover rate:

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48 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
49 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
50 concurring therein, hereby support efforts to begin investing in children now because an
51 investment in children and early childhood programs is an investment in Missouri's future.