

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 531

Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Child Care Worthy Wage Day.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 2008

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DODD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Child Care Worthy Wage Day.

Whereas approximately 63 percent of the Nation's children under age 5 are in nonparental care during part or all of the day while their parents work;

Whereas the early care and education industry employs more than 2,300,000 workers;

Whereas the average salary of early care and education workers is \$18,820 per year, and only $\frac{1}{3}$ of these workers have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas the quality of early care and education programs is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood program staff is roughly 30 percent per year, and low wages and lack of benefits, among other factors, make it difficult to retain high quality educators who have the consistent, caring relationships with young children that are important to the children's development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood program staff should be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the Nation develop their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills and helping them to be ready for school;

Whereas providing adequate compensation to early childhood program staff should be a priority, and resources can be allocated to improve the compensation of early childhood educators to ensure that quality care and education are accessible for all families;

Whereas additional training and education for the early care and education workforce is critical to ensuring high-quality early learning environments;

Whereas child care workers should receive compensation commensurate with their training and experience; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce, a project of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation, with support from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and other early childhood organizations, recognizes May 1 as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) designates May 1, 2008, as National Child
2 Care Worthy Wage Day; and

3 (2) calls on the people of the United States to
4 observe National Child Care Worthy Wage Day by
5 honoring early childhood care and education staff
6 and programs in their communities.

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