Our Proclamation

WHEREAS

The first years of a child’s life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning. Participation in high-quality early childhood education saves taxpayer dollars, makes working families more economically secure, and prepares children to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and live healthier lives.

AND WHEREAS YOUNG CHILDREN NEED

Skilled, educated, competent, consistent, and well-compensated early childhood educators. Developmentally appropriate, accessible, and available early care and education settings. Access to an early childhood education workforce that reflects a rich diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural identities.

AND WHEREAS WORKING FAMILIES NEED

Mixed-delivery early childhood education system that allows them to choose between “quality” and “quality” when selecting the setting that best meets their needs. Sufficient high-quality child care spaces beginning at birth to be available in the community. Robust subsidies, scholarships, and tax credits for families at all income levels that support the true cost of quality early childhood education.

AND WHEREAS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS NEED

Ability to earn a family-sustaining wage that is commensurate with the required education and skills they bring to the complex and valuable work they do. Ability to have basic workplace benefits such as health insurance, retirement, paid sick leave, paid vacation and professional development leave.

AND WHEREAS WE CELEBRATE

The 50th Anniversary of the WOYC so that we can continue to recognize and advance the early childhood education profession.

Therefore, be it resolved that Ohio Early Childhood Educators, advocates, and early childhood organizations do hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2021 as the Week of the Young Child. We appeal for meaningful investments from the state and local communities that stabilize, sustain and support early care and education to support children, families and our economy through the pandemic, recovery and beyond.