

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 79

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Vitale, Cruz-Perez, Cryan, Singleton and Zwicker**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permanently designates first full week in April as “Week of the Young Child” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/6/2022)**

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating the first full week  
2       in April as the “Week of the Young Child” in New Jersey.  
3  
4   **WHEREAS**, Learning and development are shaped by the earliest years  
5       of a child’s life; and  
6   **WHEREAS**, The State’s future depends on the high-quality early  
7       childhood experiences provided to young children today, preparing  
8       them for school success and brighter outcomes; and  
9   **WHEREAS**, Providing high-quality early childhood education services  
10       represents a worthy commitment to our children’s future by  
11       preparing them to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and live  
12       healthier lives; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, Providing high-quality early childhood education services  
14       also makes working families more economically secure by reducing  
15       child-care costs, thereby saving taxpayer dollars that would  
16       otherwise go to child care assistance programs dedicated to low-  
17       income families; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, Working families need a mixed-delivery early childhood  
19       education system where the quality of services is not comprised by  
20       economic factors or lack of accessibility when selecting child care  
21       arrangements that best meet the needs of their family; and  
22   **WHEREAS**, The State’s early childhood education workforce needs  
23       skilled, qualified, and adequately compensated early childhood  
24       educators who reflect a diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural  
25       identities, and provide children and families of this State with  
26       developmentally appropriate child care services in educational  
27       settings that are both accessible and affordable; and  
28   **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey needs to provide robust subsidies,  
29       scholarships, and tax credits for families at all income levels to help  
30       alleviate the true cost of high-quality early childhood education;  
31       and  
32   **WHEREAS**, The Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is a week-long  
33       celebration that focuses public attention on the needs of young  
34       children and their families, recognizes the programs and services  
35       that meet those needs, and coordinates music, food, and art  
36       activities to help develop children’s math, literacy, and motor skills;  
37       and  
38   **WHEREAS**, The National Association for the Education of Young  
39       Children (NAEYC), in partnership with state and local  
40       organizations, early childhood professionals, and families and  
41       children, are celebrating the of the WOYC April 2 through April 8,  
42       2022; and  
43   **WHEREAS**, By calling attention to the need for high-quality early  
44       childhood education services for all children and families within the  
45       State of New Jersey, the NAEYC and its partners groups hope to  
46       improve the quality and availability of such services; and  
47   **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper to designate the first week in April  
48       as the “Week of the Young Child” in the State of New Jersey to

1 recognize the importance of high-quality early childhood education  
2 that is affordable and accessible and advance the child care and  
3 early childhood education professions; now, therefore,

4

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
6 *State of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. The first full week in April shall be permanently designated  
9 as the “Week of the Young Child” in the State of New Jersey to  
10 recognize the importance of high-quality early childhood education  
11 that is affordable and accessible and to advance the child care and  
12 early childhood education professions.

13

14 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
15 proclamation recognizing the first full week in April as the “Week  
16 of the Young Child” in New Jersey and calling upon public  
17 officials, the citizens of the State, and other interested groups to  
18 observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

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20 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
21 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
22 Secretary of the Senate to the New Jersey Association for the  
23 Education of Young Children.

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25 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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30 This joint resolution permanently designates the first full week  
31 of April as the “Week of the Young Child” in New Jersey to  
32 recognize the importance of high-quality early childhood education  
33 that is affordable and accessible and to advance the child care and  
34 early childhood education professions.