

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 260

Designating May 1, 2002, as “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2002

Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. CARNAHAN, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating May 1, 2002, as “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day”.

Whereas approximately 14,000,000 children are in out-of-home care during part or all of the day so that their parents may work;

Whereas the average salary of early childhood educators is \$16,000 per year, and only $\frac{1}{3}$ have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas the quality of child care and other early childhood education programs is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators, and low wages make it difficult to attract qualified individuals to the profession;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood educators is approximately 30 percent per year because of low wages

and lack of benefits, making it difficult to retain high quality educators, and research has demonstrated that young children require caring relationships to have a consistent presence in their lives for their positive development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood educators must be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the United States develop their social, emotional, physical, and intellectual skills to be ready for school;

Whereas the cost of adequate compensation cannot be funded by further burdening parents with higher child care fees but requires public as well as private resources so that quality care and education is accessible for all families; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce and other early childhood education organizations recognize May 1st as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates May 1, 2002, as “National Child
3 Care Worthy Wage Day”; and

4 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
5 mation calling on the people of the United States to
6 observe “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day”
7 by—

8 (A) honoring early childhood educators and
9 programs in their communities; and

- 1 (B) working together to resolve the early
- 2 childhood educator compensation crisis.

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