
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 437 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, GROVE, PHILLIPS-HILL, STEPHENS, WARD,
WATSON AND WHEELAND, JULY 21, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, JULY 21, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study
2 the cost of providing high quality child-care services
3 compared to existing child-care subsidy rates of the
4 Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The last study by the Legislative Budget and Finance
6 Committee on child care was published in 1999, nearly 20 years
7 ago; and

8 WHEREAS, In the interim, Pennsylvania's Office of Child
9 Development and Early Learning has been created; and

10 WHEREAS, The office has implemented many programs to
11 incentivize continuous quality improvement and affect subsidy
12 rates, including Keystone STARS, tiered reimbursement and Pre-K
13 Counts and Head Start Supplemental Pre-K programs; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite these improvements, the percentage of
15 employees in the early childhood field who continue to receive
16 poverty wages has not changed substantially in the last two
17 decades; and

18 WHEREAS, Many providers struggle to blend public dollars with
19 private payments to effectively maintain operations and provide

1 quality care; and

2 WHEREAS, Among the largest costs are staff wages and
3 benefits, staff professional development and facilities costs;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The number one factor affecting the quality of a
6 program is staff-child interactions, meaning investments in
7 human capital are essential for the industry; and

8 WHEREAS, For children at risk, the most common form of public
9 support is subsidized care through Pennsylvania's Child Care
10 Works program, and child-care subsidy rates in Pennsylvania have
11 been frozen since 2007 despite the fact that expenses for child-
12 care providers continue to rise; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2015, Pennsylvania's subsidy rates fell in the
14 33rd percentile of what providers charge, far below the 75th
15 percentile that the Federal Government cites as necessary for
16 giving low-income families a similar choice of quality programs
17 as more affluent families; and

18 WHEREAS, As programs accepting children on subsidy decrease,
19 high numbers of children on subsidy are becoming more
20 concentrated in fewer programs and the revenue received for
21 children on subsidy is not sufficient to retain quality staff
22 and meet the Commonwealth's standards; and

23 WHEREAS, Programs that do not receive revenue through Child
24 Care Works subsidies also struggle to make ends meet; therefore
25 be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
27 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the cost of
28 providing high quality child-care services compared to existing
29 child-care subsidy rates provided by the Commonwealth; and be it
30 further

1 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
2 prepare a written report of its findings from the study and
3 submit the report to the House of Representatives within one
4 year of the adoption of this resolution.