

A Resolution

To be presented at precinct caucuses throughout Minnesota in February 2010

Whereas: Our nation's highest priority should be to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed by beginning school ready to learn; and

Whereas: The early experience of a child determines his brain structure, thus shaping the way the child learns, thinks and behaves throughout his life; and

Whereas: Scientific evidence conclusively demonstrates that children develop best in the context of stable, responsive relationships; and

Whereas: Stable, consistent, out-of-home care is best delivered by early childhood care and education professionals who are trained and committed to provide quality care; and

Whereas: Over 70% of Minnesota mothers of children under the age of six now work outside the home and rely upon others to help nurture and care for their children; and

Whereas: Our nations children and families with young children need additional support so that children receive the attention and care that they need to successfully learn and develop, and to achieve in school and become capable members of Minnesota's future workforce; and

Whereas: Our nations children deserve a strong foundation for their lives and the experience of a loving, nurturing environment; and

Whereas: Minnesota has developed the Parent Aware quality rating system so parents can find quality child care and other early education programs that prepare children for kindergarten; and

Whereas: Over eight in ten Minnesotans place "early care and education" as the top policy concern, virtually tied with "improving public education"* ; and

Whereas: Nearly eight in ten Minnesotans believe that children who attend early learning programs do better in school*; and

Whereas: Over seven in ten Minnesotans want Minnesota children prepared to succeed in school and two thirds believe that they are not now fully prepared for kindergarten*.

Now, therefore, we resolve that Minnesota increase its support for early childhood care and education of our children so that Minnesota's families and their children can thrive. Parent Aware rating system should be funded for expansion. Funding should be increased for quality early childhood programs, including child care. Tax credits should be increased for working families and businesses that support childcare. Regulations should be examined and strengthened to enhance the quality of early childhood programs.

*A Peter Hart Research/Decision Resources poll of 604 Minnesota voters, released February 22, 2006