

National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution in Support of Pre-Kindergarten Education

WHEREAS, young children's development and learning are impacted by the family and community, and such development incorporates cognitive, social emotional, language, and physical health and;

WHEREAS, access to high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten programs for all children is a key component of a comprehensive system and is vital to the long-term welfare of our economy, families, and educational system; and

WHEREAS, pre-k is one of the most sound economic investments a state can make. A number of scientifically rigorous studies demonstrate that pre-k programs provide significant returns on investment and respected economists have studied and strongly support pre-k as a sound investment; and

WHEREAS, a child's most important brain development occurs before age five;ⁱ and

WHEREAS, the achievement gap between children of different racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds is mostly a gap in learning readiness that is present at kindergarten entry in the form of disparities in early word-identification and math skills;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, national research shows that children who attend a high-quality pre-k program are better prepared for school, scoring higher on assessments of letter-word identification, early spelling, and early applied-problems skills than their peers who do not have pre-k;ⁱⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, fourth graders who had attended pre-k passed state literacy and math assessment tests at higher rates than their peers who had no pre-k;^{iv} and

WHEREAS, studies show pre-k reduces dropout and retention rates and the need for special- and remedial-education services,^v educational challenges that plague children from all income-levels;^{vi} and

WHEREAS, pre-k has been proven to contribute to a more competitive workforce for the future by increasing workers' lifetime earnings by an average of \$50,000^{vii} and decreasing the likelihood of relying on welfare^{viii} in adulthood as compared to peers who did not attend pre-k; and

WHEREAS, almost seven in 10 voters want state and local government to provide highquality, voluntary pre-k for all children, according to a national voter survey completed in June 2008 by a bipartisan team of nationally known researchers;^{ix} and

WHEREAS, with over \$5.2 billion invested nationwide in state-funded pre-k programs,

states have made significant progress, but still too many families cannot afford or find quality pre-k in their communities; and

WHEREAS, nationally recognized, evidence-based science shows standards for quality Pre-K programs could ensure pre-k teachers and classroom aides are well qualified and compensated at a level commensurate with those qualifications, could require lead pre-k teachers to have a BA or teaching assistants to have a Child Development Associate (CDA), and could limit pre-k class size to 20 and ensure a maximum staff-to-child ratio of 10:1,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) shall seek to provide three- and four-year-old children in the nation with the opportunity to participate in high-quality, voluntary pre-k and to enhance pre-k program quality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House, Minority Leader of the U.S. House, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate, Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, Chairs of the Democratic and Republican National Committees, and that the NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in *StateNews* magazine, and that the NLGA further post the full text of the resolution to its website making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected officials, and other interested parties.

Finally passed the 13th day of March, 2009.

Sponsored by: Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien (D-CO)

Co-sponsors: Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple (R-ND)

Lt. Governor Jim Folsom (D-AL)

Lt. Governor Diane Denish (D-NM)

Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson (D-KS)

Lt. Governor Daniel Mongiardo (D-KY)

Lt. Governor Patty Judge (D-IA)

Lt. Governor Michael Fedele (R-CT)

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Lt. Governor Gregory Francis (D-VI)

Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton (D-WI)

Lt. Governor John Bohlinger (R-MT)

Sec. of State Max Maxfield (R – WY)

Lt. Governor Tim Murray (D-MA)

Lt. Governor Bill Bolling (R-VA)

Lt. Governor Anthony Brown (D-MD)

Sec. of State Kate Brown (D-OR)