

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- WHEREAS, Experiences in early childhood determine whether a child’s developing brain architecture provides a strong foundation for future learning, behavior, and health<sup>1,2</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, Children from lower income families are at risk of entering kindergarten behind their peers, which is a predictor of subsequent academic performance<sup>3,4</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, Money spent on high quality, comprehensive early childhood programs benefits society in reduced welfare and criminal justice costs<sup>5,6</sup>; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies educate parents on the importance of quality early childhood learning experiences; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies work collaboratively with existing early childhood programs to better coordinate services; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies advocate for policies and funding to improve early childhood services throughout the state.

(Updates FAM 2002-2)

### Documentation:

- <sup>1</sup>Dr. Bruce D. Perry, “Maltreatment and the Developing Child: How Early Childhood Experience Shapes Child and Culture”, The Margaret McCain Lecture Series, published by Centre for Children and Families in the Justice Center, 2005; also at <http://www.lfcc.on.ca/mccain/perry.pdf>
- <sup>2</sup>Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, “A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy: Using Evidence to Improve Outcomes in Learning, Behavior, and Health for Vulnerable Children”, 2007, <http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu/content/publications.html>
- <sup>3</sup>Dr. Lawrence J. Schweinhart, High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, “The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40: Summary, Conclusions, and Frequently Asked Questions”, 2007, [http://www.highscope.org/file/Research/PerryProject/3\\_specialsummary%20col%2006%2007.pdf](http://www.highscope.org/file/Research/PerryProject/3_specialsummary%20col%2006%2007.pdf)
- <sup>4</sup>Lisa Klein and Jane Knitzer, “Promoting Effective Early Learning: What Every Policymaker and Educator Should Know”, National Center for Children in Poverty, 2007, [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_695.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_695.pdf)
- <sup>5</sup>Art Rolnick and Rob Grunewald, “Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return”, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 2003, [http://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications\\_papers/studies/earlychild/abc-part2.pdf](http://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/studies/earlychild/abc-part2.pdf)
- <sup>6</sup>Leslie J. Calman and Linda Tarr-Whelan, “Early Childhood Education for All: A Wise Investment”, Recommendations arising from “The Economic Impacts of Child Care and Early Education: Financing Solutions for the Future”, a conference sponsored by Legal Momentum’s Family Initiative and the MIT Workplace Center, 2005, <http://web.mit.edu/workplacecenter/docs/Full%20Report.pdf>