



March 15, 2013

The Honorable Deval L. Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

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Dear Governor Patrick:

Who's watching the kids? Many working families in Massachusetts entrust the care of their children to child care providers. It is once again time to ask that you honor the child care workforce of Massachusetts by signing a proclamation declaring Friday, May 10, 2013, as **Provider Appreciation Day**. Your proclamation would continue the tradition set by Massachusetts and many other states in years past.

Provider Appreciation Day is celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. It was spearheaded by a group of volunteers in New Jersey in 1996 that saw the need for a special day to appreciate and recognize all who work in early care and education. I am proud to share that our volunteer efforts have proven successful and that Provider Appreciation Day is celebrated annually in every state in the country and, with the support of the Department of Defense Military Child Care and Family Programs, on military installations around the world. I encourage you to visit the website, www.providerappreciationday.org, for more information. We would be proud to share the proclamation with Massachusetts State providers as well as with other resource and referral agencies across our state.

For your convenience, a sample proclamation is attached for your consideration. Please feel free to modify it if you wish. The sample may also be downloaded from the Provider Appreciation Day website. I would like to share the proclamation with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) so that we can share your efforts with other community and governmental groups nationwide on their website. If convenient, it would be appreciated if a PDF file could be sent to me along with the original signed proclamation mbutler52@comcast.net.

We encourage you to visit both NAFCC's website at www.NAFCC.org and NACCRRRA's website at www.naccrra.org to view the many successful programs these organizations

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offer and continue to develop in support of improving the quality of child care for civilian and military families across the United States.

Please join us in thanking the dedicated child care providers and early childhood educators in Massachusetts for their hard work and commitment to this nation's most precious investment . . . our children. I am proud to volunteer my time and efforts on behalf of the National Association for Family Child Care, with the hope of bringing quality care to all children.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further help, please feel free to contact me, or Jocelyn Sturdivant, of NACCRRRA at jocelyn.sturdivant@naccrra.org. We will be happy to answer any questions that you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

LAURA BUTLER

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Proclamation by [Governor/Mayor]

Provider Appreciation Day

May 10, 2013

WHEREAS, Child Care Aware® of America and other organizations nationwide are recognizing Child Care Providers on this day; and

WHEREAS, of the 20 million children under age 5 in America, nearly 11 million are in some form of child care setting; and

WHEREAS, by calling attention to the importance of high-quality child care services for all children and families within our state/community, these groups hope to improve the quality and availability of such services; and

WHEREAS, our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today; high quality early childcare services represent a worthy commitment to our children's future.

Now, therefore, I, [name of official], [Governor/Mayor] of the [state/city], hereby proclaim May 10, 2013, as Provider Appreciation Day in [state/city] and urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work.