

PROCLAMATION

Declaring May 12, 2023 Provider Appreciation Day in Taylor County

WHEREAS, Florida is a national leader in education and supports all students and educators in its mission to provide the highest-quality education system in the nation, including our earliest learners and early care and education (ECE) providers; and

WHEREAS, Providers Appreciation Day is dedicated to honoring Florida's ECE providers for their unwavering commitment to facilitating high-quality care and early learning; and

WHEREAS, The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region and other organizations nationwide are recognizing Child Care Providers on this day; and

WHEREAS, child care provides a safe, nurturing place for the enrichment and development of millions of children nationwide, and is a vital force in our economy; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic illuminated how indispensable child care providers are for the wellbeing and economic security of The Big Bend Region's young children, families, and communities.

WHEREAS, The Big Bend Region has invested \$26.4 million to aid in providing quality early education, and more than 8,000 of the region's children attended one of the state's early education programs in 2021-22; and

WHEREAS, child care programs, which are mostly small businesses, run and staffed predominantly by women, are still recovering from health and financial hardships stemming from the pandemic while they have continued to meet the needs of families; and

WHEREAS, The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region recognizes that child care has been a lifeline for families, communities, and the economy and as such, has provided much needed support to its 11 contracted providers in Taylor County to help sustain the viability of child care; and

WHEREAS, our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today; support for high-quality child care represents a worthy commitment to our children's future.

Now, Therefore the **Taylor County Board of County Commissioners**, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2023, as: **Provider Appreciation Day** in Taylor County and urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work.

Done and ordered this 16th day of May 2023, in Taylor County, Florida.


Jamie English
Chair, Board of County Commissioners
Taylor County, Florida

ATTEST:


Gary Knowles, Clerk
Taylor County, Florida

