

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, Child Care Aware of America, Child Care Action Council and other organizations both local and nationwide are recognizing child care providers on this day; and*

*WHEREAS, Childcare provides a safe, nurturing place for the enrichment and development of millions of children nationwide and locally serving roughly 99 licensed child care sites in Olympia, and is a vital force in our economy; and*

*WHEREAS, the pandemic illuminated how indispensable child care providers are for the well-being and economic security of Washington's young children, families, and communities; and*

*WHEREAS, Childcare 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 provided untold amounts of support during and after the pandemic; and*

*WHEREAS, Washington State recognizes that child care has been a lifeline for families, communities, and the economy and as such, has provided much-needed support to providers to help sustain the viability of child care by increasing subsidy rates, providing much needed supplies during the pandemic, passing the Fair Start for Kids Act, and increasing mental health considerations for providers, children, and families; 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, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Olympia hereby proclaims May 12, 2023, as*

**PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY**

*and urges all community members to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work.*

**SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 9th DAY OF MAY  
2023**

**Cheryl Selby  
Mayor**