

## **IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO BUILDING AN EARLY LEARNING NATION BY THE YEAR 2025**

**Whereas**, over the past 238 years major eras in the history of the United States have been frequently marked and recognized by the transference of scientific research, scientific breakthrough and scientific invention into the mainstream of daily life, leading in turn to new growth, enhanced opportunities and innovative change; and

**Whereas**, social researchers and sociologists are identifying babies born between 2010 and 2025 as 'Generation Alpha,' and are claiming this generation will be the most formally educated generation in history, beginning school earlier and studying for longer than those from previous generations; and

**Whereas**, Generation Alpha members will be second only to the Baby Boomer generation in population numbers, consisting of more than 70 million children aged between birth to 15 in the year 2025; and

**Whereas**, the latest neuroscience research into child development clearly shows the profound and lasting benefits of every day and in-the-moment interactions between parent or caregiver and child, and that these parent or caregiver/child interactions require no expensive purchases of toys or equipment to achieve these benefits; and

**Whereas**, scientific research clearly shows that positive parenting and caregiving in early childhood, starting at birth, is a key contributor to lifelong health and productivity; and

**Whereas**, advances in neuroscience, developmental psychology and prevention science provide compelling evidence that the foundation for health or disease is established in early childhood; and

**Whereas**, these scientific advances show it is possible for children to achieve their potential as a result of parent and child interactions in the critical brain development years of birth to three; and

**Whereas**, high quality early learning in the critical years from birth to three has been proven to reduce placements in special education, reduce grade retention, boost graduation rates, decrease teen pregnancy rates, reduce violent crime, juvenile delinquency and incarceration, and increases the odds of long-term employment;

**Whereas**, we are committed to providing unparalleled opportunities for the children of Generation Alpha so they do not become part of a 'lost generation' making this an imperative of moral and national urgency to provide early learning for all children particularly in the critical brain-building years from birth to three; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a movement committed to engaging every community and particularly parents and caregivers in daily brain-building moments with their children, while highlighting

the ease and developmental importance supported by the latest scientific research of these conversational moments between adult and child; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports designating the decade of 2015 – 2025 as an era of community focus in building an Early Learning Nation so, in turn, the children of Generation Alpha emerge equipped and prepared to resolve issues, assume leadership positions, while generating innovative and long-term solutions for previously intractable and seemingly unsolvable challenges.