

LEWISTON ME

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing The Week of the Young Child & Commending the Contributions of Early Childcare Educators

WHEREAS: **The Week of the Young Child®** is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of **The Week of the Young Child®** is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families & to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs; and

WHEREAS: **The Week of the Young Child®** was established in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later in life; and

WHEREAS: Children's cognitive, physical, social and emotional, and language and literacy development are built on a foundation of children's positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment; and

WHEREAS: High-quality early care and education can help overturn the effects of poverty, detect and remediate delays, identify and help prevent child neglect, and lead to positive outcomes for individual children; and

WHEREAS: Participation in high-quality early childhood education saves taxpayer dollars, makes working families more economically secure, and prepares children to succeed in school, earn higher wages, and live healthier lives; and

WHEREAS: It is important that families have access to a mixed-delivery early childhood education system that allows them to choose between "quality" and "quality" when selecting the setting that best meets their needs; and

WHEREAS: Childcare educators, therefore, deserve a family-sustaining wage that is commensurate with the required education and skills they bring to the complex and valuable work they do; and

WHEREAS: The child care sector has sacrificed and struggled to serve children and families since the start of the COVID pandemic, and many child care providers have, at great personal and professional cost, managed to keep their doors open to support local families—and for that, we are very grateful!

NOW THEREFORE, I, Carl L. Sheline, as Mayor of the City of Lewiston, do hereby proclaim **April 2–8, 2022**, as **The Week of the Young Child®** and do hereby recognize the valuable, essential, and demanding work of early childhood educators.



Presented this 5th day of April, 2022



Carl L. Sheline, Mayor