

Mayor Nancy Smith

Whereas, Arizona Child Care Professional Network and other organizations nationwide are recognizing Child Care Providers on this day; and

Whereas, over half of the children under the age of six nationwide are estimated to spend some time in a nonparental care arrangement on a weekly basis, which provides critical enrichment opportunities and nurtures development for children of all backgrounds and is a vital building block of our state economy; and

Whereas, the pandemic illuminated how indispensable childcare providers are for the well-being and economic security of Arizona's young children, families, and communities; and

Whereas, childcare programs, which are mostly small businesses, are still recovering from health and financial hardships stemming from the pandemic while they have continued to meet the needs of families; and

Whereas, Arizona recognizes that childcare 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 childcare by offering Stabilization and Infrastructure grants; and

Whereas, our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today. Support for high-quality childcare represents a worthy commitment to our children's future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy Smith, Mayor of the City of Maricopa do hereby proclaim May 12, 2023, as **Provider Appreciation Day** in the City of Maricopa and urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work.

Dated this 2nd day of May 2023

Nancy Smith, Mayor