WHEREAS, Florida’s Office of Early Learning, early education and child care stakeholders, and partners across Florida and the United States are recognizing early education and child care providers on this day; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to approximately 1.4 million children younger than age 5, and more than 320,000 of these children attend one of the state’s school readiness or voluntary prekindergarten programs; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 10,500 child care programs in Florida that support working families, including small and large private businesses, family child care homes, faith-based programs, and public school settings; and

WHEREAS, nearly 70 percent of parents place young children in child care; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s future depends on the investments and quality of the early education experiences that build the foundation for school readiness and future growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 10, 2019, as Provider Appreciation Day in Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 10th day of May, in the year two thousand nineteen.