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An act relating to Parents' and Children's Day;
amending s. 683.17, F.S.; renaming "Children's
Day" as "Parents' and Children's Day"; changing
the designated day for the celebration of
Parents' and Children's Day; providing an
effective date.

WHEREAS, the Legislature intends that Florida Parents'
and Children's Day become the model for a National Parents'
and Children's Day, and

WHEREAS, the public awareness component of Parents' and
Children's Day is designed to encourage public and private
entities to demonstrate Florida's support of child well-being,
and

WHEREAS, the key indicators of child well-being include
children who are healthy, safe, and ready to learn; families
that are stable, nurturing, and self-sufficient; and
communities that are supportive of families raising children,
and

WHEREAS, every parent in Florida should have access to
prenatal and infant health care; training and education in
parenting skills to help build healthy families; high-quality
child care and early learning opportunities; safe and
enriching after-school experiences; and access to delinquency
prevention programs and services to treat children with
problems, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

1 Section 1. Section 683.17, Florida Statutes, is
2 amended to read:

3 683.17 Parents' and Children's Day.--The first Sunday
4 ~~second Tuesday~~ in April of each year is designated as Parents'
5 and Children's Day. On this day local communities and
6 families, together with public officials, schools, private
7 organizations, and all citizens, are encouraged to celebrate
8 the lives and blessings of Florida's children with love,
9 respect, gratitude, and encouragement;~~both~~ to acknowledge our
10 ~~Florida's~~ children as the resource giving our state ~~it~~ the
11 greatest hope of future excellence; to listen to children and
12 to reaffirm our shared ~~their~~ commitment to help them ~~Florida's~~
13 ~~children~~ develop their unique qualities, strengths, and
14 potential, resulting in greater productive capacity and
15 enlightened citizenship; and to observe this day with
16 appropriate activities, ceremonies, public awareness
17 materials, and programs. All citizens of the state are
18 encouraged to wear a white ribbon on Parents' and Children's
19 Day which shall indicate that our children are considered to
20 be special gifts and are valued for their part in the circle
21 of life.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.
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