



Board and Commission Council Committee Agenda Item Request

Name of Board or Commission: Early Childhood Council

Request Number: 20170208-6cii

Description of item: The Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council amend its legislative agenda to support continuing funding for HB4 at the current level of \$118 million or more per year for the next two years.

Board or Commission Vote to refer item to Council: 7-0-2 with Members Elsner and Porter abstaining

Date of Approval of Request: 02/08/2017

Attachments: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the attachments: ECC Recommendation 20170208-6ii – HB4 Regarding High-Quality Pre-K

Attest:

Cynthia D. Gamez

MAYOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY

Council Committee Assigned:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audit & Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AE Utility Oversight | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Opportunity | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space, Environment & Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services | | |

Recommend a Fiscal Analysis be completed?

Recommend a Legal Analysis be completed?

Notes:

Mayor Signature & Date:



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

Recommendation Number: 20170208-6cii - HB4 Regarding High-Quality Pre-K

WHEREAS, The Early Childhood Council of the City of Austin is charged with making recommendations to the City Council that support optimal development of young *children and their families, continued development of a system of high-quality early care* and education, and cooperative arrangements to support quality early care and education; and

WHEREAS, Today's children are the workforce of the future for the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, There is strong evidence that children who attend high quality pre-kindergarten programs are more likely to be ready for kindergarten than those who do not attend; and

WHEREAS, There is strong evidence that the benefits of early childhood education are much greater when that education is high quality; and

WHEREAS, There is strong evidence that the preschool years are critically important for success in school, likelihood of graduating from high school, and being a productive citizen; and

WHEREAS, Economists and other experts agree that the return on investment in education is greatest for programs offered in the first five years of life; and

WHEREAS, In conjunction with the Governor's commitment to pre-kindergarten education, the State of Texas (HB 4) appropriated \$118 million in the last year for quality improvement of pre-kindergarten programs throughout the state, enabling them to provide professional development, full-day programs, and other improvements in quality; and

WHEREAS, The current budget proposed in the Senate includes a reduction to about 2/3 of last year's amount to \$75 million per year which will limit the efforts of school districts, including AISD, to continue quality improvements; and

WHEREAS, The City of Austin Early Childhood Council recommends that the City Council support full continued funding for HB4;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council amend its legislative agenda to support continuing funding for HB4 at the current level of \$118 million or more per year for the next two years.

Date of Approval: February 8, 2017

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 7-0-2 vote, with Members Elsner and Porter abstaining

Attest: Cynthia D. Gamzy