



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

Recommendation Number: 20190410-6bi3: State legislation that would benefit young children in Austin

WHEREAS, the Texas State legislature is currently considering various bills that have implications for families with young children on a range of topics including education, health, and child care safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Intergovernmental Relations office is actively following and engaging with the state legislative process on issues of interest to City departments and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Council makes recommendations to City Council on ways to promote optimal development for young children, improved services for young children and their families, and a system of high-quality early care and education programs for young children; and

WHEREAS, less than half of the children in Central Texas are school-ready by the time they enter kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, children who attend Pre-K are more prepared for school; and

WHEREAS, the Austin-American Statesman's "Unwatched" series highlighted the need for many child care providers to improve the safety and quality of care provided; and

WHEREAS, Austin lacks sufficient affordable high-quality early care and education providers to meet the needs of families with young children, and

WHEREAS, a child and their mother's health and mental health status and access to quality health care during their early childhood is related to their long-term health and wellbeing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council encourages the Austin City Council and the City of Austin Intergovernmental Relations office to support the following bills that have been introduced in the Texas Legislature that would benefit young children and their families:

Pre-Kindergarten

[HB3 Reps. Huberty, Bernal, Zerwas, Ken King, Allen](#) - Relating to public school finance and public education.

[HB55 Rep. González](#) / [SB818 Sen. Menéndez](#) - Relating to class size limits and student/teacher ratios for prekindergarten classes provided by or on behalf of public schools. Collect data on class sizes and ratios.

[HB189 Rep. Reynolds](#) / [SB36 Sen. Zaffirini](#) - Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children.

[SB287 Sen. Miles](#) - Relating to the availability of universal optional free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

[HB612 Rep. Thierry](#) - Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children.

[HB752 Rep. Wu](#) - Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children.

[SB301](#) - Relating to limits on the size of prekindergarten classes in public schools. Except as otherwise authorized by this section, a school district may not enroll more than 18 students in a prekindergarten class or 22 students in a kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth grade class.

Child Care safety and standards

[HB680 Rep. Deshotel](#) / [SB1002 Sen. Watson](#) - Relating to the evaluation of and improvements to the quality of the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program.

[HB568 Sen. Huffman](#) - Relating to the regulation of child-care facilities and family homes; providing administrative penalties.

[HB1682 Rep. Raney](#) / [SB708 Sen. Zaffirini](#) - Relating to collection and use of child safety data for licensed day-care centers.

[HB4259 Rep. Bonnen](#) / [SB569 Sen. Huffman](#) - Relating to the regulation of listed family homes – protection of health and safety, providing adequate supervision.

[SB952 Sen. Watson](#) / [HB1808 Rep. Lucio III](#) - Relating to standards for nutrition, physical activity, and screen time for certain child-care facilities and homes.

[HB2883 Rep. Bernal](#) / [SB1744 Sen. Menéndez](#) - Relating to training requirements and prohibited discrimination for child-care facilities and registered family homes.

Category: Prevention of child abuse and neglect

[SB355 Sen. West](#) - Relating to developing a strategic plan to ensure the provision of prevention and early intervention services complies with federal law.

Category: Health and Mental Health

[SB189 Sen. Miles](#) - Relating to the automatic enrollment of certain women in the Healthy Texas Women program.

[HB 1879 Rep. Davis of Harris](#) - Relating to the automatic enrollment of certain women in Medicaid and the Healthy Texas Women and CHIP perinatal programs.

[HB342 Rep. Cortez](#) - Relating to the period of continuous eligibility for the medical assistance program.

[HB1292 Rep. Price](#) / [SB436 Sen. Nelson](#) - Relating to statewide initiatives to improve maternal and newborn health for women with opioid use disorder.

[SB750 Sen. Kolkhorst](#) - Relating to maternal and newborn health care and the quality of services provided to women in this state under certain health care programs.

[HB25 Rep. González of El Paso](#) - Relating to the provision of services to certain children under the Medicaid medical transportation program.

[HB18 Rep. Price](#) - Relating to consideration of the mental health of public school students in training requirements for certain school employees, curriculum requirements, counseling programs, educational programs, state and regional programs and services, and health care services for students and to mental health first aid program training and reporting regarding local mental health authority and school district personnel.

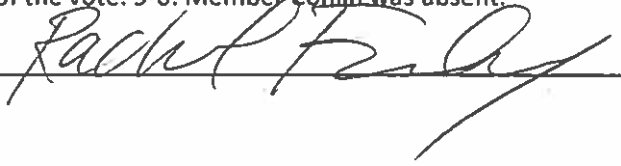
Category: Workforce Support

[HB52 Rep. Hinojosa](#) - relating to a franchise tax credit pilot program for taxable entities that contribute to an employee dependent care flexible spending account.

Date of Approval: April 10, 2019

Record of the vote: 9-0. Member Conlin was absent.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Rachael".