



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

Recommendation Number: 20201021-3b – Thanking Council for Supporting Child Care through SAVES

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic, access to high quality affordable child care in centers or homes was severely limited, especially for families with low-income;

WHEREAS, 71% of the 357 child care centers in Austin/Travis County that accept children receiving child care subsidies have temporarily closed at some point during the coronavirus pandemic; 18 of these remain permanently closed (with the number growing weekly); and families eager to return to work are struggling to afford the quality care that is available as the waiting list for state subsidy grows beyond 2,200 children;

WHEREAS, many child care providers in Austin/Travis County remained open during the pandemic to serve children of essential workers, including over 500 children identified by the Texas Workforce Commission as needing care so that their parents can work in essential industries;

WHEREAS, access to quality child care is essential not only for parents to return to work or to receive education/training, it is also the most effective way to grow the next generation's collective human potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council thanks the Austin City Council for including child care as a vital economic sector in the SAVE(S) Resolution as well as including an early childhood sector representative on the Board of the Austin Economic Development Corporation. Taken together, these actions will provide critical support to the child care sector in the short-term and will help to build a more resilient, sustainable industry for the long-term.

Date of Approval: October 21, 2020

Record of the vote: 8-0-0

Attest: _____