

earlymattersgreateraustin

November 2, 2023

Dear Mayor Watson and Austin City Council Members:

On behalf of Early Matters Greater Austin (EMGA), thank you for championing innovative solutions to help working families with young children address their child care needs.

As you are aware, [Early Matters Greater Austin \(EMGA\)](#) is an alliance of current and retired business professionals focused on the critical relationship between access to high-quality early education and our region's long-term economic success. We believe that having the government, business community, and early childhood development professionals working effectively together is essential for an equitable, high-quality child care system in Greater Austin.

We encourage you to adopt Agenda Item 28 during the November 9, 2023 City Council Meeting. This will signal strong support – and reduce financial burdens - for the early education and care sector in Austin, especially the providers caring for our most vulnerable children and often operate on razor thin margins.

Early Matters worked alongside our statewide partners to get SB1145 passed with strong bipartisan support during 88th legislative session, which prompted Proposition 2 on the statewide ballot. We are optimistic that Prop 2 will be adopted with strong bipartisan support from voters across the State.

Thank you for taking swift action on Item 28 in response to Proposition 2. We urge you to approve 100% property tax relief for eligible child care providers. However, it is important to note that this exemption only applies to center-based providers. We urge City Council to continue to explore mechanism to provide home-based childcare providers with similar property tax relief.

Thank you for your commitment and partnership on behalf of Austin's youngest children and their families.

Sincerely,



Jeanette Ward, Chair
Early Matters Greater Austin