



January 16, 2024

Mayor Watson and Members of the Austin City Council
Austin City Hall
301 West 2nd Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mayor Watson and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Austin/Travis County Success By 6 Coalition, we thank you for your continued commitment to supporting families with young children, especially those living with low-income.

We encourage Council to adopt [Agenda Item 13](#) on the January 18, 2024 agenda. Adopting Item 13 will put into motion steps taken by Council in November to support eligible child care providers by approving an ordinance establishing an exemption from the City's ad valorem property tax of 100 percent of the appraised value of all or a portion of real property operating as a qualifying child-care facility.

Success By Six joined parents and providers to advocate for SB1145, which passed with strong bipartisan support during the 88th legislative session. This prompted Proposition 2 on the statewide ballot. Proposition 2 passed with 65% of Texas voters in support—76% of Travis County voters were supportive—demonstrating strong precedent locally and statewide.

We urge the City of Austin to approve Item 13, becoming the first municipality in the State to implement this property tax exemption. It is important to note that this exemption only applies to center-based providers. We urge Council to continue to explore mechanisms to provide home-based childcare providers with similar property tax relief.

We are grateful to have a City Council that recognizes access to quality, equitable child care is essential for a thriving community. The Success for Six Coalition looks forward to working with you to identify shared priorities so children and families can continue to receive the critical support they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aaron DeLaO'.

Aaron DeLaO, Vice President
Strategic Programs and Coalitions
United Way for Greater Austin