

# earlymattersgreateraustin

January 16, 2024

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 encourage you to approve Agenda Item 13 at the January 18, 2024, City Council Meeting. This property tax abatement 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.

Thank you for taking swift action in response to the strong bipartisan passage of Proposition 2 on the statewide ballot. We urge you to take this next step with Item 13, 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.

Thank you for your commitment and partnership on behalf of our current and future workforce.

Sincerely,



Jeanette Ward, Chair  
Early Matters Greater Austin