

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE

WHEREAS the Santa Clara County Democratic Party has made access to child care a priority on their [platform](#) pledging to fight for access to and funding for safe, reliable, high quality, and affordable childcare programs, and adequate, inclusive, and culturally competent training for childcare workers. The Party encourages our state officials to bring equity to Santa Clara County by weighing the cost of living, which bears down on our low and middle income families, and extending opportunities to access child care based on this high cost of living; and

WHEREAS every day, millions of working parents struggle to stay on track in their careers while raising their children, which if work is truly the path to economic security and upward mobility, there should be policies that allow parents to succeed in the workforce and do what they believe is best for their children, which would include solutions that recognize the importance of funding for parents and their young children, whose brain growth in the first 3 years of life is unparalleled to any other point in their lifetime, therefore education is a right, which makes up the foundation of our economic status, social mobility, and national security; and

WHEREAS child care is expensive, with the average cost of child care in the United States ranging from 9 to 36 percent of a family's income, more than 20% of American families are borrowing to pay for child care and preschool, especially poignant in California where the cost of infant care is more expensive than public college tuition, which to support the important endeavor of putting their child through preschool, a minimum wage worker would simply need to work more weeks than there are in a year to pay a median-priced daycare at the existing rate, and children without access to preschool can be as much as 2 years behind in language development on the first day of kindergarten, as compared to their higher-income peers, and a low-income fourth grader who is already behind in reading is 13x more likely to drop out of high school, and students who drop out of high school are 50% more likely to be unemployed than high school graduates and 8x more likely to be incarcerated; and

WHEREAS the current system is obsolete, perpetuates a lack of quality child care options, and does not actually support the families most in need, resulting in an annual economic cost of \$57 billion in lost profits, productivity and income across the country, stretching to families losing an average of \$3,350 per working parent and businesses losing an average of \$1,150 per working parent in reduced income and additional hiring costs, therefore we cannot afford not to invest, as 71% nationwide of our 17-24-year-old population is ineligible to join the U.S. military primarily because they are too poorly educated, they're not healthy or they have a serious misdemeanor or felony criminal record which prevents them, so if America is not prepared to compete globally economically, then that's a national security issue; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party believes that the State of California should fund universal child care and early learning programs to provide all young children a fair and comprehensive opportunity to reach their full potential, and; to ensure that families can access high-quality, affordable early education and child care programs, regardless of the circumstances; and

FURTHER RESOLVED,The Santa Clara County Democratic Party advocates with county and state Democratic Party officials to support the expansion of evidence-based programs for low-income and first-time parents, guardians, and caregivers, including home visiting, that can help connect to families in need with child care, education, and child development opportunities and improving outcomes for both children and parents; and it also adds to its list of supporting requirements for a candidate the complete and comprehensive understanding of the need for child care.

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