

1 [Funding Support for Early Childcare]

2 **Motion urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to continue to fund and**
3 **protect existing funding for the Department of Early Childhood.**

4 WHEREAS, In 2022, former Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Melgar
5 initiated the Department of Early Childhood (DEC) which included investments in
6 affordable childcare, literacy services, pay raises for SFUSD educators, child wellness
7 programs, etc.¹; and

8 WHEREAS, Since the creation of DEC, San Francisco has been an example for
9 the importance of supporting early childcare; and

10 WHEREAS, Issues facing children under the age of 6 are oftentimes ignored
11 during policy discussions; and

12 WHEREAS, Research done by the National Library of Medicine indicates that the
13 ages of 0-5 are critical to a child's long-term social, cognitive, emotional, and physical
14 development. Additionally, children facing food insecurity and poverty have an increased
15 likelihood of developing health issues later on in their adulthood²; and

16 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2023-2024, DEC allocated \$123.2M for early learning
17 tuition, \$44.3M for workforce compensation, \$22.7M for Family Resource Centers, and
18 \$16.9M for child care facilities³; and

¹ "San Francisco Launches New Department of Early Childhood," SF.gov, October 11, 2022, <https://www.sf.gov/news--san-francisco-launches-new-department-early-childhood-0>.

² Wesley Barbosa Sales et al., "Early Life Circumstances and Their Impact on Health in Adulthood and Later Life: A Systematic Review," *BMC Geriatrics* 24, no. 1 (November 28, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-024-05571-4>.

³ "Annual Impact Report 2024 - San Francisco Department of Early Childhood," San Francisco Department of Early Childhood, January 31, 2025, <https://sfdec.org/annual-impact-report-2024/#investments>.

1 WHEREAS, Early childcare educators in San Francisco play a vital role in
2 supporting the social, emotional, and cognitive development of children to help foster a
3 healthy generation of young people; and

4 WHEREAS, According to data from DEC, San Francisco saw an increase of 10%
5 in kindergarten readiness since 2021, with 7,882 children currently enrolled in free
6 childcare⁴; and

7 WHEREAS, Early Learning for All provides affordable and high quality child care
8 and education, in which $\frac{2}{3}$'s of San Francisco families are eligible for a free or
9 subsidized program⁵; and

10 WHEREAS, Access to affordable and high quality early childcare is essential to
11 support working families and ensure that all children are able to receive support in the
12 most developmentally critical period of time in their lives; and therefore be it

13 MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board
14 of Supervisors to continue to fund and protect current funding for the Department of
15 Early Childhood and protect subsidies for child care and early education programs from
16 being cut; and be it

17 FURTHER MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes the
18 importance of protecting funding for programs such as Early Learning for All and
19 affordable childcare, as well as the importance and tremendous impact of early
20 childcare educators in our city; and be it

⁴ "Annual Impact Report 2024 - San Francisco Department of Early Childhood."

⁵ "Early Learning for All - San Francisco Department of Early Childhood," San Francisco Department of Early Childhood, June 12, 2025, <https://sfdec.org/early-learning-for-all/>.

- 1 FURTHER MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission staff shall
- 2 transmit a copy of this motion to the Mayor and Office of Supervisor Myrna Melgar.