

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-105

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AMERICAN FAMILIES BY APPROVING THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION INVESTMENTS INCLUDED IN PRESIDENT BIDEN’S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND SUPPORTING PRESIDENT BIDEN’S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY CARE AND SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, high-quality early care and education (“childcare”) are critical to our Nation’s economic growth and economic security; and

**WHEREAS**, high-quality childcare gives young children a strong start in life; and

**WHEREAS**, high-quality, affordable childcare for children from birth through school age is a vital resource to support families in achieving their children’s potential; and

**WHEREAS**, neuroscience confirms that early experiences affect all aspects of children’s development and that children need childcare settings that are safe and enriching; and

**WHEREAS**, access to high-quality, affordable childcare allows parents and caregivers the opportunity to pursue employment and further their education in ways that build stability and financial security; and

**WHEREAS**, accessible, affordable childcare contributes to prosperous communities by promoting economic growth, racial and economic equity, and child well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the childcare market continues to fail to deliver enough high-quality care because of a persistent gap between the costs of providing this care and the prices that families can afford to pay; and

**WHEREAS**, high-quality childcare is labor intensive and requires skilled workers; and

**WHEREAS**, childcare providers have limited ability to reduce costs; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2022, over half of childcare providers reported difficulty paying for food and utilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States lags behind most other industrialized nations in terms of investments in childcare; and

**WHEREAS**, two-thirds of American children from birth through age 12 have all available parents in the workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, childcare is a necessity for most American families because nearly 16 million young children regularly spend time in the care of someone other than their parent or primary caregiver; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of American families with very young children cannot access the affordable, high-quality care that they need; and

**WHEREAS**, economic insecurity is worsened by the steep costs of raising young children, including childcare costs, that parents face when they are early in their careers when their wages are lowest, so they have no way to accumulate savings; and

**WHEREAS**, childcare expenditures represent a significant and growing share of families' budgets, with childcare prices increasing by nearly 220 percent over the last three decades; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual increase in childcare costs has outpaced inflation since 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the cost of infant care in a childcare center exceeded annual in-state tuition at public universities in 34 states plus the District of Columbia; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, childcare prices for two children exceed average housing payments in nearly every state; and

**WHEREAS**, high-quality, affordable childcare helps families find and keep a job and increases their take-home pay while also supporting the cognitive and socio-emotional development of young children; and

**WHEREAS**, even when high-quality childcare programs are available, they are inaccessible to the many American families who cannot afford their cost; and

**WHEREAS**, when families cannot access affordable, quality child care, they often forgo care altogether and seek lower-quality care options, juggle unconventional shifts at work, reduce

their own paid work hours, drop out of the labor force, or make other arrangements that may threaten their financial security and/or the safety of their children; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. economy currently loses an estimated \$57 billion per year in revenue, wages and productivity as a result of child care challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, it is impossible to quantify the cost to families who forgo job and educational opportunities and face the daily stress that comes with making childcare payments on time; finding child care in many places across the country where few options exist or outside of the traditional work day when most providers are closed; or when child care arrangements fall through; and

**WHEREAS**, investments in childcare bolsters short- and long-term economic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, economic analysis shows that high-quality childcare from birth to five yields a return on public investments of 13 percent annually, and that for every \$1 invested in early childhood education provides a return of \$4 to \$9 to society over the course of a child's life; and

**WHEREAS**, American businesses lose nearly \$13 billion each year due to workers' childcare challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, child care, or the lack thereof, is a gender equity issue because women primarily take on the majority of caregiving responsibilities within families and in the paid childcare sector; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of access to childcare limits women's ability to enter, stay or participate more fully in the labor market; and

**WHEREAS**, high turnover in the childcare workforce exacerbates issues caused by an inadequate supply of quality childcare programs; and

**WHEREAS**, childcare workers, who are disproportionately women of color, are among the lowest-paid workers in the United States and often rely on public benefits despite working complex, demanding, and time-intensive jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 20 percent of the childcare workforce has turned over annually in recent years; and



**WHEREAS**, investments in the childcare workforce are foundational to retaining care workers and improving outcomes for children in the programs staffed by these workers; and

**WHEREAS**, 80 percent of respondents to a July 2021 survey of childcare centers reported that they were experiencing staffing shortages; and

**WHEREAS**, 52 percent of providers with staffing shortages were forced to serve fewer children while 37 percent had a longer waiting list; and

**WHEREAS**, the care workforce as a whole remains measurably smaller than before the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, more than 75 percent of American families seeking childcare reported difficulty finding programs with capacity for their children; and

**WHEREAS**, American military families point to the inaccessibility of high-quality childcare as a barrier to military spouse employment and family economic security; and

**WHEREAS**, increased investments in childcare would significantly expand choices and opportunities for American women and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, increased investments in childcare will expedite American economic recovery from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, current U.S. policy does not reflect the reality that high-quality child care is a necessity for working families across income levels and that the first five years of life are most crucial to a child's development; and

**WHEREAS**, accessible, affordable childcare affects all Americans who would benefit from increased economic growth and a strong future workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, many states have provided short-term solutions to the national childcare crisis by investing CARES Act and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds into immediate stabilization of the sector and then into expanded eligibility for child care subsidy, state-funded early care and education programs, and care worker compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biden administration invested \$39 billion from the ARP to help childcare providers keep their doors open and improve compensation for workers; and

**WHEREAS**, these investments have helped over 220,000 childcare programs, which employ over one million workers and have the capacity to serve nearly 10 million children; and

**WHEREAS**, one in three childcare programs that received stabilization support provided by the ARP reports that they would have been forced to close permanently if they had not received these funds; and

**WHEREAS**, ARP dollars are imminently expiring; and

**WHEREAS**, President Biden's Build Back Better plan would have addressed chronic foundational flaws in the American childcare market caused by decades of underinvestment; and

**WHEREAS**, Build Back Better would have created an early care and education entitlement program for children under 6 who had not begun kindergarten by raising the income eligibility cap for childcare subsidy, providing funding to states to build child care supply, and raising wages for workers through the implementation of a reliable cost model for child care payment rates; and

**WHEREAS**, after Build Back Better failed to pass, Congress left American children and families behind by eliminating funding for childcare from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1. Incorporation.** The above WHEREAS clauses are hereby incorporated by reference into this Resolution.

**Section 2. Support for Budget.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami hereby urge Congress to support American families by approving the early care and education investments included in President Biden's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024. The FY 2024 President's budget will:

- Invest over \$600 billion over 10 years to expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare and free, high-quality preschool;
- Enable States to increase childcare options for more than 16 million young children;
- Lower costs so that caregivers can afford to send their children to high-quality care; and
- Compensate workers with wages reflective of the value that they provide to families, communities, and the American economy.

**Section 3. Support for Executive Order.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami hereby supports President Biden's Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers, specifically its direction to federal agencies, to consider:

- Requirements that federal grant applicants expand access to care for their workers;
- Opportunities to reduce or eliminate co-payments for childcare for families benefitting from the Child Care & Development Block Grant program;
- Opportunities for the federal government to become a model employer by supporting its own workforce with childcare subsidies and other ways to expand access to childcare;
- Increasing affordability of childcare on military installations;
- Streamlining the process by which tribal grantees of federal childcare assistance and Head Start apply for and construct or improve early child care and education facilities; and
- Engagement of affected communities and key stakeholders by the Treasury and the Departments of Defense, Agriculture, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Veterans Affairs.


**Section 4. Conflicts.** That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** That this Resolution shall be in force and take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by a 5 - 0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 27th day of June, 2023.

  
ALIX DESULME, Ed.D.  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.  
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR ALIX DESULME

Moved by: Galvin

Seconded by: Charles

**Vote:**

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.

X (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No)

Vice-Mayor Mary Estimé-Irvin

X (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No)

Councilman Scott Galvin

X (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No)

Councilwoman Kassandra Timothe, MPA

X (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No)

Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles

X (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No)