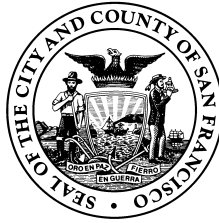


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## YOUTH COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Gavin Newsom  
Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors

**CC:** Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Starr Terrell, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** San Francisco Youth Commission

**DATE:** November 29, 2010

**RE:** Youth Commission support of and statement concerning proposed ordinance file no. 101094 [Child Care Centers for City Projects and City-Funded Private Projects]

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At its regular meeting of November 15, 2010, the San Francisco Youth Commission voted unanimously to support the following item:

Proposed ordinance file no. 101094 [Child Care Centers for City Projects and City-Funded Private Projects].

The Commission issues the following statement:

According to *The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in the City and County of San Francisco*, a 2006 study conducted by the Department of Children, Youth and their Families (DCYF), "Child care is a significant economic sector in its own right," generating \$191 million annually in gross receipts. This study—along with the presentations the Youth Commission heard from Todd David, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Dufty, and Mardi Lucich, DCYF's Citywide Childcare Administrator—makes clear the importance of the childcare industry to San Francisco's economic health and well-being.

Although the economic benefits of investing in childcare are compelling, the Youth Commission ultimately chose to support this piece of legislation for a different reason—namely, because quality childcare provides children with the crucial cognitive skills they need to be successful in later years of school.

The data is clear on the critical importance of childcare and early childhood education. A study conducted by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, for example, concludes, "Children who have greater [...] experiences in high quality childcare from 6 to 54 months tend to show higher levels of reading and math achievement across the elementary-school years." Another study published by the National Research Council reasons, "Academic success, as defined by

high school graduation, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by knowing someone's reading skill at the end of 3rd grade. A person who is not at least a modestly skilled reader by that time is unlikely to graduate from high school.” Given that success in elementary school has a significant impact on high school and even college education, investing in early childcare will provide San Francisco youth with a foundation on which to base later years of learning.

Despite the fact that, overall, the Youth Commission believes that this piece of legislation will be somewhat effective in increasing the availability of childcare to the youth and families of San Francisco, during our meeting on November 15, many Youth Commissioners expressed that the ordinance might not be sufficiently effective. In the words of one commissioner, we wonder, “Is this legislation progressive enough?” A few commissioners raised the simple question as to whether more could be done to promote (or perhaps require) the inclusion of childcare centers in new construction; indeed, it seems unlikely that requiring a study alone will necessarily be a sufficient encouragement for an employer to do so.

In conclusion, given that the Youth Commission’s Chartered duty is to “Identify the unmet needs of San Francisco’s children and youth” and that 57% of the working families in San Francisco are in need of childcare, the Youth Commission strongly supports the proposed ordinance.

#### Sources:

The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in the City and County of San Francisco (January 2006).  
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