



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 79825, **Version:** 1

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### **Fiscal Note**

The proposed resolution expresses support for initiatives that improve access to high-quality, affordable child care for all families in Madison and directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers and the Madison legislative delegation. No appropriation is required.

### **Title**

Supporting initiatives that improve access to high-quality, affordable child care for all families in Madison

### **Body**

WHEREAS, families in Madison rely on child care providers as an essential service for early learning, development, and social supports for children; and,

WHEREAS, the availability of high-quality child care options provides critical infrastructure that enables employment for working families; and,

WHEREAS, access to affordable child care is necessary for employers to build and retain a robust workforce and is an important component of supporting entrepreneurship, building capacity, and improving education in working-age adults; and,

WHEREAS, a May 2023 report from the Wisconsin Policy Forum highlights that the annual cost of child care in a licensed group center is more expensive than in-state tuition at any University of Wisconsin campus, and equates to up to 29% of the median household income for infant care, and 22% of median household income for care for a four-year-old; and,

WHEREAS, additionally, a study of 2021 child care rates by the non-profit Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. showed that the median cost of child care for a two-year-old in Madison was \$260 per week; for a family with a gross income of \$90,000, this represents over 15% of their family income before taxes; and,

WHEREAS, an August 2023 survey from the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association found that 86% of program directors and owners already are or are considering raising parent fees, 47% of early educators are considering leaving the field, and 32% of programs are considering closing without further investment in the Child Care Counts program; and,

WHEREAS, the state Child Care Counts program received a significant federal infusion of funding that will expire in January 2024 without further action by the legislature; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Evers called for a special session of the Legislature at the Capitol on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, to consider and act upon LRB-4085/LRB-4086, relating to a fall workforce package which includes investments in Child Care Counts; and,

WHEREAS, without investments to address the child care industry's looming fiscal cliff, The Century Foundation estimates that statewide, 2,110 child care programs could close, resulting in a loss of 4,882 child care jobs, leaving 87,425 kids without child care, and resulting in approximately half a billion dollars in economic impacts between parents leaving the workforce and reduced employer productivity; and,

WHEREAS, many child care providers, families, employers, community-based organizations, and local public agencies in Madison are already collaborating to innovate, identify creative solutions, and address a broken child care system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Madison supports initiatives that improve access to high-quality, affordable child care for all families in Madison.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers and the Madison legislative delegation.