

From: [Tracy Roscoe](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: RES 23-1094
Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 7:57:13 PM

Saint Paul City Councilmembers,

I am sending this letter regarding RES 23-1094 on behalf of Saint Paul Kids Count on Us leaders, which includes providers, teachers, and parents.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gq5L7f_bfP2zBS858RVJwJ-u1W2w9BeGIISy1enVITY/edit?usp=sharing

Please reach out with any questions.

Best,

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July 17 2023

Council President Brendmoen, Council Vice President Noecker, Council Members Balenger, Jalali, Prince, Tolbert, and Yang:

Whether we are white, black, or brown, every family, child, parent, provider and teacher in Saint Paul deserves to have an affordable, accessible and culturally relevant childcare system that honor's every person's dignity and allows everyone to thrive.

Sadly, this is not the case for many in Minnesota, including in St. Paul. Because of a dearth of public funding, high quality early childhood care and education is unavailable for too many children, unaffordable for too many parents, and where it does exist is predicated on low wages and scarce benefits for teachers and caregivers.

Kids Count On Us is working to change this by increasing public funding at the state and federal level. We applaud the intentions of those who worked on the early learning resolution that is being presented on Wed July 19 to address a portion of this problem. However, because the scope of the resolution is so limited and many questions remain about its intended impact, specifically birth to 5 and workforce support, Kids Count On Us and ISIAAH will remain focused on other important priorities, and will not be able to support the early learning resolution as is written nor support a campaign to advance this resolution in 2024.

This is because Kids Count On Us will work on significant investments in the early childhood workforce as well as quality care and access since workforce compensation is imperative to providing necessary childcare spots. In light of a new state level Department of Children, Youth and Families, we have an exciting opportunity to continue fighting for a statewide childcare system where no family pays more than 7% of their income to childcare. This is essential for both expanding access to care and education, sustaining a mixed delivery model, and continuing to raise workforce standards so that teachers are earning livable wages and have access to benefits. We will also support intentional grassroots conversations led by our childcare base about the potential solutions our kids, families, providers and teachers across race, class and geography need to have the childcare and early learning system they deserve.

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ISIAAH is a statewide organization of over 200 congregations, 50 mosques, 500 childcare centers, and dozens of barber shops in Minnesota. Altogether, these institutions represent over half a million Minnesotans. Our mission is to enable people to work together to organize and advocate for racial, social and economic justice.

Kids Count on Us, an initiative of ISAIAH, is a coalition of over 500 child care providers across Minnesota united for respect and dignity with parents, teachers and providers.