

From: [Peter Ries](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Ward3](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Early Learning Resolution - Wednesday 7/19
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 7:20:33 PM

Hi Chris,

My name is Peter Ries and I live in Ward 3. I'm emailing about the early learning resolution that is being presented on Wed July 19 to address childcare affordability.

I recognize that 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.

This matters to me because we need to focus on giving the generations coming up the best opportunities to do well and be thoughtful about how we spend our tax dollars.

While I applaud the intentions of those who worked on the early learning resolution, I have concerns about it.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> · <!--[endif]--> In the resolution, it says that \$22 million to \$78 million additional dollars could flow to Saint Paul in 2024 due to the state budget passed this legislative session. That's a big gap. It seems like we should be taking the time to learn exactly how much money is coming in and how it can be best used. This way we have a realistic way to determine what additional resources we need.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> · I'm wondering how this proposal connects to the state and county level and I'm not seeing details about how these different levels of government are working together since the childcare system is complex.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> · Asking people to pay property taxes at a time when there's a sales tax proposal moving through that people would be paying for in 2024, pending that it passes, seems too rash - especially since the program is not fully fleshed out.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> · <!--[endif]--> How will this program benefit providers: corporate, the mom and dad/small providers and especially those who are BIPOC. What are we doing to ensure equity and culturally responsive access? We need to pay attention to workforce issues in addition to affordability since they are connected.

I ask for a no vote on this resolution. As much as I'm supportive of the intentions, I believe that we need to have a thoughtful approach to addressing our childcare issues and there are too many questions than there is clarity that Saint Paul voters deserve.

Thank you for your service all these years, Chris.

Peter