

From: [Drew Johnson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [#CI-StPaul Ward3](#)
Subject: Early Learning Resolution
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:24:17 PM

Hi my name is Drew Johnson 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 I'm a parent and I want a healthy child care system that is affordable for families and provides quality, living wages and benefits for child care workers.

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

- The amount of money to fund this initiative is the size of our library budget. Yet there is no detailed plan for a program connected to the early learning resolution. That feels like a concern since we are asking Saint Paulites to pay for this program. We should know what we are paying for.

- I'm concerned that SPFE and ISAIHA are publicly not on board with this resolution. Especially since both orgs work directly with people who offer childcare and would be impacted by this resolution.

- It's concerning that a new council, with 4 new councilmembers coming in, will be responsible for getting this issue on the ballot when they weren't a part of the design or shaping it. Shouldn't there be a new council who gets to be at the ground level of building this program and engaging their constituents in it?

Typically I would support a resolution like this, but in this instance **I ask for a no vote**. As much as I'm supportive of the intentions, I believe that we need to have a more thoughtful approach to addressing our childcare system.

Sincerely,
Drew Johnson