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LEADING FROM WITHINP.O. Box 806
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Phone: (805) 770-3232

leading-from-within.org

Clerk of the Board

Santa Barbara County Board of

Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Item 21-00958 Investing ARPA Funds into Child Care

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

This letter is in support of the ARPA Child Care funding proposal submitted to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors by the Emergency Child Care Initiative (ECCI), item 4, and file number 21-00958 on the October 19th meeting agenda.

I can share from firsthand experience with the over 500 social impact sector leaders that we serve that child care issues are a major limiting factor both for individuals and for teams to be fully staffed to help take on the needs of this community.

Our economic recovery is intrinsically connected to the availability of quality and affordable childcare. Without this resource, working parents are constrained in the economic opportunities available to them to support their families, and a lack of affordable childcare perpetuates the barriers to economic empowerment for women and minorities. Additionally, without adequate childcare for working parents, local businesses are not able to source the workers they need to themselves recover from the financial impact of the pandemic. This investment will help ensure the problem doesn't get worse, while also increasing the engagement of individual child care providers with support systems which can improve the quality of their operations and prepare them for potential expansion.

Child care is a pillar of our local infrastructure, and the economy is negatively impacted when child care is not available. I encourage the County and cities of Santa Barbara County to invest American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds in critically needed relief and recovery funds for the child care sector. Thank you for your consideration.

In appreciation and community,

Ed France

Executive Director, Leading From Within