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Allan Hancock College Foundation

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October 19, 2021

Clerk of the Board  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: 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 on the October 5 meeting agenda.

At Allan Hancock College, we know that economic recovery and financial well-being of our communities is tied 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. 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 increase the engagement of individual child care providers with support systems that 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Hooten".

Jon Hooten Ph.D.  
Executive Director