

Goleta City Council
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B,
Goleta, CA 93117
July 20, 2021

Dear Mayor Perrote and Members of the Council,

Unfortunately, due to technology issues I was not able to provide comments to the Council but wanted to provide the following to you as my talking points that I would have made with regards to Item B.3 on the Council's Agenda for 7/20/21, Presentation titled "Rebuilding the Economy by Investing ARPA Funds into Child Care".

As some of you are aware, the Foundation has a history of supporting Child Care in the County and in the City of Goleta. We provide child care scholarships to working families through our William and Lottie Daniel Fund and provide grants to non-profits to increase the quality of care through our Child Care Grants. In addition, during the pandemic we supported Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County in their efforts to help child care providers stay open by providing emergency supplies and materials and coordinating the vaccine rollout to child care providers. What you may not be aware is that we have done this, because we hold the belief that child care is a critical piece of our economic infrastructure, and an essential service. Moreover, as many economists have argued, not doing anything to get back to pre-pandemic child care levels will affect gender equity in the labor market, as well as potential GDP, for years to come. In other words, this industry, is a key to our recovery and not doing anything will hinder our progress. I would like to end by stating that we have directly supported the Child Care Collaborative that will present to you tonight and although there are state and federal funds promised for child care, the details are still being worked out. What we do know is that this funding is not allocated to allow private child care programs to fully recover or to fund the emergency action plan needed to ensure we are ready for the next disaster. We, at the Foundation, would be happy to again in partnering with you in this in this important work or other areas.

Warm Regards,

Pedro Paz

Director of Grantmaking
Santa Barbara Foundation