

Resolution Relating to

CALLING ON THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT AN EQUITABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SYSTEM

RESOLUTION 5.09

Sponsors: Councilors Traverse, Paul, Magee, Bergman, Brandt, *Carpenter*
Introduced: 03/13/23
Referred to: _____

Action: adopted
Date: 03/13/23
Signed by Mayor: 03/21/23

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-three.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

1 That WHEREAS, child care is essential to shaping the next generation of Vermonters, supporting families,
2 and revitalizing our economy; and

3 WHEREAS, since 2017, the City of Burlington’s Early Learning Initiative (ELI) has operated as one
4 of the few municipally funded programs in the country focusing on expanding access to high-quality early
5 child care for infants and toddlers, and has awarded more than 100 scholarships to low-income Burlington
6 families; and

7 WHEREAS, since 2020, the impact of the pandemic and widespread workforce shortages has
8 presented unprecedented challenges for children, families, and child care providers; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2021, Vermont passed H. 171 (Act 45), which laid the foundation to achieve an
10 equitable, affordable, and accessible early childhood education system in Vermont by the end of 2025,
11 established critical resources to support child care programs and families during unprecedented challenges,
12 and set the following key goals for Vermont to achieve:

- 13 • All families with young children should have access to high-quality child care and early education;
- 14 • No Vermont family should spend more than 10% of their annual income on child care; and
- 15 • Vermont’s essential early childhood educators should be fairly compensated and well supported; and

16 WHEREAS, with pandemic aid now coming to an end, and workforce shortages still presenting
17 significant challenges, child care investments continue to present both a key solution to Vermont’s broader
18 workforce crisis and a vital opportunity to address longstanding structural challenges and inequities in our
19 child care system; and

20 WHEREAS, in January 2023, an independent financing study overseen by the Vermont Legislature’s
21 Joint Fiscal Office was released, estimating costs of a high-quality early childhood education system,
22 considering alternative sliding-scale subsidy options and resulting family contributions, and estimating the
23 fiscal and economic impacts of stable State revenue sources to fill the funding gap; and

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DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution has been sent to the following department(s) on

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

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Adopted by the City Council

....., 20.....

..... Clerk

Approved....., 20.....

..... Mayor

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EQUITABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION SYSTEM

24 WHEREAS, with the support of this financing study and the will of many to lift Vermont’s future and
25 achieve quality, affordable, equitable childcare in Vermont, the 2023-2024 legislative biennium is the prime
26 opportunity for Vermont to solve the child care crisis and, in turn, lift up our children, families, our
27 communities; and

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Burlington City Council requests that the Vermont
29 Legislature adopt legislation that accomplishes the following:

- 30 • Support early childhood educators through higher wages, better benefits, and appropriate training and
31 professional resources;
- 32 • Make childcare affordable for every family, and ensure that no household pays over 10% of their
33 income on childcare;
- 34 • Improve governance of Vermont’s childcare system by consolidating oversight of childcare providers
35 and early childhood education programs to a single state agency;
- 36 • Make childcare accessible in every community, including by growing our workforce of skilled
37 providers and improving physical capacity; and
- 38 • Strengthen equity through programs to support families of color, families with children with
39 disabilities, and other marginalized communities in accessing the childcare services they need.

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Vermont Legislature

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

Calling On The Vermont Legislature To Support An Equitable, Affordable, And Accessible Early Childhood Education System

Adopted by the City Council

March 13, 2023

[Signature] Clerk

Approved March 21st 23, 2023

[Signature] Mayor

Attest:
[Signature]
Lori Olberg
Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator

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