



February 28, 2020

Senator Kerry Donovan
State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax Avenue #339
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB20-1053

Dear Senator Donovan:

The City of Aspen and Kids First recognizes a serious shortage of childcare spaces for working families, specifically infant care. In 2018, 137 babies were born to families that live in Pitkin County, and we have 32 licensed infant spaces. We are seeing parents not returning to jobs, delaying their return to work, and in some cases leaving the community because they cannot find childcare.

We are actively searching for physical space to create childcare capacity; however, we are also actively recruiting early childhood workforce. This is challenging with the existing childcare programs given the cost of living in our valley, so this legislation that would support a more streamlined process for people to earn qualifications, receive coaching, and possibly be part of an apprenticeship program.

When this bill gets to the senate, we hope you will support this legislation that will provide a stronger early childhood workforce to better care for our youngest citizens. We know that investing early in young children earns a high return on investment for our state and our community.

The City of Aspen and Kids First is pleased to work in collaboration with our Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council, CMC, the Aspen School District, and the Office of Early Childhood to align this new program. This legislation is a great way to ensure a high-quality early childhood workforce for all children across the state.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful work on so many issues that affect our community. It means a great deal to know that we can reach out to you, that you listen to our thoughts, and that you understand the needs across this region.

Sincerely,

Torre, MAYOR, CITY OF ASPEN
Skippy Mesrirow, Ann Mullins, Ward Hauenstein, Rachael Richards, CITY COUNCIL