

Resolution supporting Investment in Prevention –

For consideration by the Early Childhood Council March 8, 2017

WHEREAS, The Early Childhood Council of the City of Austin is charged with making recommendations to the City Council that support optimal development of young *children and their families, continued development of a system of high-quality early care* and education, and cooperative arrangements to support quality early care and education; and

WHEREAS, Supporting families with children during their early years can reduce the economic burden on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Increasing child safety and reducing maltreatment, promoting child neurodevelopment and school readiness, and increasing father engagement and family self-sufficiency can reduce downstream costs associated with maltreatment and other trauma early in life; and

WHEREAS, The long-term treatment and costs associated with child trauma are exponentially more expensive than supporting families short-term with home visiting; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that parents, infants and children receiving family support home visiting are healthier, safer, and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, The current budget proposals before the Texas House and Senate underfund family support home visiting programs that prevent child abuse and neglect;  
NOW, THEREFORE,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Austin Early Childhood Council recommends that the City Council support proposals in the House and Senate for Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Exceptional item 6c to expand Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council recommends that the Austin City Council amend its legislative agenda to support continuing funding for proven prevention programs, including the expansion of Project HOPES in new counties and current sites, Texas Home Visiting and Nurse-Family Partnership.