RESOLUTION NO.

2	WHEREAS, child care is a critical piece of our economic infrastructure,
3	allowing parents to work while providing enriching experiences children need; and
4	WHEREAS, a survey released on July 13, 2020, by the National
5	Association for the Education of Young Children reveals that nationwide, 40
6	percent of child care centers that responded say they will be forced to permanently
7	close if they do not receive additional financial support to help them remain
8	operational, threatening any chance of broader economic recovery; and
9	WHEREAS, the lack of available and affordable child care has a negative
10	impact on the U.S. economy of over \$57 billion in lost revenue, earnings, and
11	productivity, according to a 2019 report published by ReadyNation; and
12	WHEREAS, reported cases of COVID-19 transmission associated with
13	child-care centers in Texas have skyrocketed in recent weeks, resulting in alarming
14	numbers of employees and children infected, and threatening to necessitate the
15	closure of more child-care centers, while the costs of safely operating increase; and
16	WHEREAS, in 2018, the Bipartisan Policy Center ranked Texas last out of
17	all states on the state-level administration of a coordinated and integrated early
18	care and education system, meaning that the disruption of that already-precarious
19	system resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic may cause irreversible damage if
20	not addressed quickly and sufficiently; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Austin has approved more than 21 \$2 million in grants and other support for child-care centers and providers 22 struggling with financial hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, but 23 this support is still insufficient without continued support and coordination at the 24 state level; **NOW**, **THEREFORE**, 25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN: 26 The State of Texas should immediately take action to address the impeding 27 economic and public health crisis that will result from the closure of child-care 28 centers in Texas due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 29 Adequate response to this looming crisis should include: 30 The creation and dissemination of a clear, action-oriented plan to release and 31 distribute adequate resources from the state to meet the financial demands on 32 child-care facilities with the goal of assisting them in remaining safely 33 operational during and after the COVID-19 pandemic; 34 Spending sufficient federal and state dollars to provide relief for child-care 35 centers at risk of closing because of financial distress; 36 Clear guidance for child-care facilities on safe operations to mitigate the 37

spread of COVID-19, with recommended best practices and guidance on

implementing state and local orders, such as the wearing of face masks;

39

- Increased coordination between public health and licensing entities at the state to ensure that child care centers maintain a central focus in Texas's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - Guidance and assistance for child care programs that do not serve families receiving subsidies, including private-pay and family programs;
 - Guidance for parents to help them make informed decisions about their children's safety;
 - Adequate monitoring of child-care centers to ensure that licensing standards and guidance on safe operations are being followed;
 - Resources and financial assistance available for employees providing care in child-care facilities, the majority of whom do not have employer-provided health insurance and who earn low wages;
 - Reauthorizing the essential worker subsidy so that essential workers can be assured that they will have child care available;
 - Additional funding and support for full-day child care for eligible school-age children in school districts that have opted to provide virtual instruction at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year; and
 - Continuing the standard of enhanced payments based on enrollment, rather than attendance.

58

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

ου	DE 11 FURTHER RESULVED:
61	The City Manager will deliver this resolution to the Governor, Lieutenant
62	Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, the Chair and
63	Commissioners of the Texas Workforce Commission, the Chair and
64	Commissioners of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and
65	Austin's state legislative delegation.
66	
67	
68	ADOPTED: , 2020 ATTEST:
69	Jannette S. Goodall
70	City Clerk
71	

72