



Signature Report

Motion 15521

Proposed No. 2019-0336.2

Sponsors Kohl-Welles

1 A MOTION establishing a King County children and
2 families strategy task force to explore policy
3 recommendations related to child care affordability and
4 access in King County

5 WHEREAS, in 2017, the King County women's advisory board adopted the topic
6 of improving child care access and affordability in King County identifying lack of
7 access to child care as a stark problem that not only affects King County's families, but
8 also its employers and economy, and

9 WHEREAS, King County has been a leader in partnering with families to ensure
10 babies, children and their families are healthy, thriving and able to establish a strong
11 foundation for life, and

12 WHEREAS, the Washington state legislature has established the Washington
13 Child Care Collaborative Task Force to develop policies and recommendations to
14 incentivize employer-supported child care and improve child care access and
15 affordability for employees and King County will be a nonvoting member of the
16 Washington State Child Care Collaborative task force to better inform our policies, and

17 WHEREAS, King County has an institutional commitment to advancing equity
18 and social justice for county employees and the residents who call this place home. With
19 that, there are racial inequities in access to quality child care that meets the cultural and

20 linguistic needs of our residents and enables parents to work. At the same time, child
21 care workers are disproportionately people of color and are often paid low wages, and

22 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Executive Dow Constantine, King County
23 developed and implemented the best starts for kids levy that was approved by King
24 County voters in 2015. Best starts for kids is considered the most comprehensive
25 approach to child development in the nation. Best starts for kids invests an average of
26 \$65 million per year to support King County families and children so that babies are born
27 healthy, children thrive and young people grow into happy, healthy adults, and

28 WHEREAS, SEIU Local 925 has been a leader in advancing the dialogue with
29 state and local governments concerning health care affordability, maintaining an adequate
30 supply of licensed providers and facilities, and ensuring worker protections for child care
31 professionals, and

32 WHEREAS, the King County Coalition of Unions and the county executed a
33 Memorandum of Agreement in Total Compensation bargaining for 2019-20 to study and
34 issue recommendations by December 31, 2019, regarding implementing a child care
35 voucher program for King County employees;

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

37 A. The executive shall establish a King County children and families strategy
38 task force, to be appointed by the Executive and approved by the County Council by
39 October 25, 2019, in order to prepare a report that makes recommendations for
40 addressing access and affordability issues related to child care in King County. The
41 Executive shall also establish a staff working group to prepare for and assist the task
42 force, including lead staff from the Executive's office. The task force's analysis shall

43 include, but not be limited to, potential creation of a King County child care assistance
44 program, including, but not limited to:

45 a. a voucher program for King County employees and residents;

46 b. opportunities for increasing the number of available child care facilities,
47 including in home care facilities, and employer partnerships related to those facilities;

48 and

49 c. identifying potential opportunities within county policies, such as
50 telecommuting and the infants at work pilot program, to address the shortage of infant
51 care.

52 2. The task force shall also convene a roundtable with businesses and other
53 identified stakeholders to raise awareness of the challenges King County employees,
54 residents, and providers face in accessing and providing child care and identify policies at
55 the state and local levels that might help address those issues. The task force should
56 consider consulting with members of the public, King County employees, members of the
57 King County Women's Advisory Board, and experts on early learning and child care
58 access and affordability as it works to develop recommendations. The task force shall
59 provide a report to the executive and the King County council with its recommendations
60 by September 30, 2020, at which point the task force shall expire. The report to the
61 council shall be filed in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk
62 of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all
63 councilmembers.

64 B. The task force shall include, but not be limited to, one representative from the
65 following:

- 66 1. An organization representing the interests of licensed child care centers;
- 67 2. An organization representing the interests of licensed in-home child care
- 68 providers;
- 69 3. An organization providing childcare services as a family, friend, and/or
- 70 neighbor child care provider in King County;
- 71 4. An organization or individual representing parents who utilize child care on a
- 72 regular basis;
- 73 5. An organization representing the interests of philanthropy;
- 74 6. An organization representing the interests of labor;
- 75 7. An organization providing child care services in rural or unincorporated King
- 76 County;
- 77 8. An organization providing multicultural, bilingual curriculum in either the
- 78 preschool care program setting or the after-school care program setting, or both, in King
- 79 County
- 80 9. An organization representing the interests of immigrant or refugee
- 81 communities in King County;
- 82 10. A nonprofit organization providing training and professional development
- 83 for family child care providers and family, friend and neighbor child care providers in
- 84 King County;
- 85 11. An organization representing the needs of children with developmental
- 86 delays or disabilities;
- 87 12. A representative from the King County best starts for kids team in the
- 88 department of community and human services or the department of public health;

89 13. An advocacy organization representing parents, early learning, foster care
90 youth and expanded learning opportunity interests in King County;

91 14. An organization whose mission is to stem the level of child care expulsions
92 in King County;

93 15. The King County department of human resources;

94 16. The King County women's advisory board;

95 17. The Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning;

96 18. The King County office of the executive; and

97 19. The King County council.

98

Motion 15521 was introduced on 8/21/2019 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/25/2019, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci



KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None