



**Center for
Economic Integrity**

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 11-1-22 ITEM NO. RA 13

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Pima County Board of Supervisors

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October 30, 2022

New Initiatives/ Expanded Programs Affordable Housing

Pima County Early Education Scholarships (PEEPs) Fund Sustainability

Dear Chair Bronson and members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

We wish to express our gratitude to the Board for their commitment to addressing the causes and conditions contributing to multi-generational poverty in Pima County. We wish to further commend Pima County staff for their outstanding efforts to date, with regards to the implementation of the PEEPs program. Thank you for your leadership and your ongoing commitment to sustain and further expand this essential early education program.

Additionally, there is an urgent need to meet head-on the issue of housing affordability. Access to quality early education and access to a stable, safe home environment are interdependent. We ask that you take into consideration the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Task Force and dedicate public resources accordingly. It is no longer possible to defer the problem of rising rents, scarcity of adequate housing in the market place and the continued exploitation of low-income families who have few if any housing options. As a community, we must act and act soon, the consequences of inaction are many including child hunger, eviction, homelessness and heat related deaths. The cost to our community is enormous and will continue to escalate if expedited action to remedy the housing crisis is not addressed by any and all means available to the County.

Thank you for your vision of a resilient, thriving community. We can embrace crisis as opportunity and respond rather than react to emerging challenges but it will require resolve and funding to do so.

With respect and gratitude,

Kelly Griffith

Penelope Jacks

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