

**Melissa Whitney**

**From:** Laurel Jacobs <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 12:47 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Preschool promise funding  
**Categories:** Purple Category

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Hello,

I am writing as a resident, parent, and health researcher to express my enthusiastic support for funding to provide preschool scholarships.

- I support significant multi-year investment by Pima County in scholarships for high quality early childhood education.
- High-quality early childhood experiences mean that a child is more likely to succeed in school and in life. And that means not only better lives for these future adults, but significant savings for taxpayers. The short-term economic multiplier effect of local expenditure on high quality childcare is between 100% and 200%. The long-term return on investment has been projected to be between \$13 and \$17 for every dollar spent.
- Financial support to send their children to high quality early education is crucial to parents' ability to work. Without support, some families will be forced to place their young children in low-quality, perhaps even dangerous, care settings. Without access to high-quality safe childcare options some workers, mainly women, will be forced to remain out of the work force altogether.
- A huge proportion of all childcare is provided by small local business owners, many of whom are minorities and women, in centers and in individually licensed homes. Businesses are keenly aware of this need and they support childcare for their employees. In the current public health and economic crisis, providing access to affordable high-quality early education is a crucial step in our economic recovery.

Please also share this email with the county manager.

Thank you,

Laurel Jacobs, DrPH, MPH  
Resident, parent, and health researcher  
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**Melissa Whitney**

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**From:** Amber Jones <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 1:29 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Support for investments in Preschool  
**Attachments:** 0E465BC830B145B6A82D89AC9FEC93E2.jpg

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Greetings,

If possible, I would like the following to be read during the next Board of Supervisors meeting. I would also like a copy sent to the County Manager, Chuck Huckleberry and every BOS representative. Thank you.

I am writing this letter to you in support of investing county dollars to increase access and affordability of preschool to working families through a multi-year investment plan. I am a parent and small business owner living in District 3, Supervisor Bronson's district. The past year, I've watched parents, like myself, across Pima County grapple with the reality of having to reduce their work schedules, or in some cases drop out of the workforce completely, in order to be home with their young children. The increased cost in care coupled with the closing of many programs has left families struggling to find and afford care even more now than ever before. While dropping out of the workforce has been a reality for many, it not only affects the family's income, but also the child's development.

Our community's young children need opportunities to grow and thrive in safe, nurturing settings with peers and an educated teacher. High quality preschool programs offer our community the opportunity to invest in two generations at one time using the same dollar. If we want children to show up ready for kindergarten, while also keeping parents in the workforce, then it is vital that we invest in families today, tomorrow, and into the future.

I urge you to invest in access to high quality early childhood experiences so that our community can thrive.

Respectfully,

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**Amber Jones, M.Ed.**

Creating Connections Consulting Group, LLC

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**Melissa Whitney**

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**From:** Kelly Griffith <kelly@economicintegrity.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Preschool Agenda Item Feb 16th Mtg - Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** CEI Letter of support preschool motion Pima County.pdf

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Good afternoon,

I am attaching a letter of support for Supervisor Scott's motion to fund preschool scholarships as part of the upcoming budget cycle.

If it is acceptable to the Chair and Board of Supervisors, I respectfully request that my letter be read aloud as public testimony during the meeting and a copy of my letter be given to the county administrator as well.

Thank you for your assistance and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

--  
Kelly Griffith, Executive Director  
Center for Economic Integrity  
(520) 250-4416  
[www.economicintegrity.org](http://www.economicintegrity.org)

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February 10, 2021

Letter of Support to:

Pima County Board of Supervisors & Staff  
Pima County Administration & Staff  
Re: February 16, 2021 Agenda Item – Supervisor Rex Scott

***Directing the County Administrator and county staff to include \$10 million in the Pima County budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to fund scholarships to wholly or partly cover the cost incurred by parents who wish to enroll their three- or four-year-old child in a high-quality early childhood program. Eligible children will come from families whose income is under 200% of the federal poverty level. These scholarships would be payable only to high-quality early childhood education programs such as those run by public-school districts, childcare centers and family home care providers.***

Madam Chair and Supervisors,

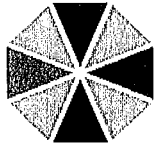
Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the record in support of the above reference measure. Specifically, I wish to thank Supervisor Scott for his leadership. I also wish to thank each and every one of you for your public service particularly during these incredibly challenging times. Please accept my expression of gratitude on behalf of your many talented and dedicated staff members as well as to the leadership and staff within County Administration.

“The Center for Economic Integrity builds economically strong communities for all and opposes unfair corporate and government practices.” This is our mission as a social and economic justice advocacy organization. Our mission falls squarely within the context of a well known quote by Mahatma Gandhi, “Poverty is the worst form of violence a society inflicts upon itself.”

You will likely receive letters of support from trusted members of our community – teachers, pediatricians, midwives, business leaders, professors, nonprofit service providers, grandmothers and most importantly, parents. These letters will highlight over and over the well-known benefits of increasing access to high-quality early education. Some will speak to long-term studies that highlight successes of individuals who did have access to high-quality early education, some will point out the return on investment in purely economic terms, some may point out cost savings to employers in employee turnover, some will speak to the health and safety benefits for young children and still others will point to the need to provide an opportunity for brighter futures - education and economic success. All of these statements are true even as they come from a wide range of perspectives. What is unique about this particular issue is that it crosses political, race and class boundaries. The real issue isn't that access to high-quality early learning is just, equitable or backed by sound research. Access to high-quality early educational opportunities is something that pretty much everyone agrees is important for young children and their families. It is fairly easy to come to consensus on this issue writ large. What has been difficult to come to consensus on until today is who will help bear the upfront costs for these incredible benefits to young children, families and the subsequent longer-term benefits to our community and society.

High-quality early learning is expensive. Multi-generational poverty is even more expensive. The problem thus far in reaching a consensus on who pays for these benefits has been short-term, fear based, scarcity thinking. Our governments have been caught in a trap - a culture of poverty as a public body- that limits vision and action based on the moment to moment crisis and/or day-to-day problem solving. This trap narrows the focus of what is and isn't possible reinforcing beliefs in limited resources, limited opportunity and limited responsibility. Breaking out of this trap requires leadership, courage, resourcefulness and creativity. A shift away from scarcity and competition toward abundance and collaboration is possible and I would argue in the context of equal access to high-quality early education; that it is necessary.

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Center for  
**Economic Integrity**

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Phone (520) 250-4416

Pima County is a governing body that is rich in diversity whose elected leaders, administrators and staff are incredibly capable, skilled and knowledgeable. Pima County as an institution is a resilient and resourceful representation of the people who live and work in this region. That is why I began my statement today with heartfelt, genuine gratitude. Your service to the people of Pima county is vital.

The difficult question of payment for access to high-quality early education has been proposed today by Supervisor Rex Scott. The truthful answer regardless of your vote today is we all pay, we always have paid and we will continue to pay. The bigger question is what are we paying for?

I respectfully ask you to vote for this measure so that we as a community can be assured we are taking the peaceful path that will lead our children and future generations out of poverty.

Thank you,

Kelly Griffith  
Executive Director  
Center for Economic Integrity

**Melissa Whitney**

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**From:** Becky Duncan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 3:59 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Preschool funding

**CAUTION:** This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Having been a parent and preschool teacher for 30 years, I have seen the power of good preschool experiences in the lives of children and their families...a good positive experience can get children prepared to experience and explore all our world has to offer.

I am asking you to please fund this experience for more of Tucson's curious, young minds.

Thank you,. Becky Duncan

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