

RESOLUTION
of
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARIN COUNTY

COMMENDING
SUPPORTING STRONG STARTS FOR ALL OF MARIN'S CHILDREN

WHEREAS, access to quality preschool, comprehensive health care and wellness services, childcare and afterschool academic support is linked to higher academic achievement, successful careers and healthy, economically vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, preschool boosts academic achievement and makes children more likely to start school ready, stay in school and graduate saving our local economy about \$11,400 per child, and affordable, quality childcare provides a nurturing environment for brain development while enabling parents to support their families; and

WHEREAS, making sure all children have access to medical, dental, mental health services and healthy nutrition is key to foster lifelong health, help catch problems early, promote regular school attendance and assure all our children are healthier; and

WHEREAS, students who attend afterschool and extended learning programs consistently show improvements in academic achievement, are less likely to join gangs, get involved with alcohol and drugs, or drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, contrary to popular belief, many Marin County children do not have access to these critical building blocks. One out of every three children in Marin does not attend preschool often due to high cost for families; and

WHEREAS, 12% of Marin children age 2 to 11 have never seen a dentist, 20% of Marin's kindergartners did not have required immunizations and only 55% of economically disadvantaged children in Marin are at a healthy weight; and

WHEREAS, 30% of families in Marin have an income insufficient to meet basic needs of their family including child care and as many as 800 families are on a wait list and unable to secure affordable childcare in Marin; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, several organizations came together to explore the potential for developing a dedicated funding stream that would support essential programs for children in Marin. The Marin Strong Start Coalition has grown to include local leaders in education, healthcare, business, government, childcare, youth and community services, civic organizations and communities across Marin County; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Marin County Board of Supervisors recognized the importance of early childhood education programs, K-12 and higher education and resolved to promote quality, accessible and affordable education for all and added a fourth "E" of Education to the sustainability goals of Economy, Environment and Equity; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 an Expenditure Committee made up of leaders from communities across Marin, representing key childhood service areas and stakeholder groups convened to develop a specific plan to use potential tax resources to fund preschool for lower income children, provide affordable child care, extend learning opportunities after school and assure every child has access to essential healthcare and wellness services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin supports the efforts of the Marin Strong Start Coalition to develop a dedicated funding stream for essential programs for children in Marin including access to quality preschool, comprehensive health care and wellness services, affordable childcare and afterschool academic support.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 21st day of July 2015.

KATIE RICE – SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2 - PRESIDENT

JUDY ARNOLD – SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 5

