

Re: Joint Special Meeting on Child Well-Being

Hello,

My name is Victoria Partida I am writing today to urge Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose to direct their resources towards programs that serve the urgent needs of children experiencing poverty in our community. Particularly at this time, when so many families are desperately struggling to hold on to their jobs, their housing, and their ability to stay in our community.

I appreciate long-range efforts to sustain childcare providers and to support their need for workforce development. Those efforts support the long term good for all children and families, but we must not lose sight of the immediate needs of struggling families.

Too many parents cannot return to work because they cannot find subsidized childcare. So they are forced to stay home or rely on dangerously informal care for their kids. This problem is even more acute for afterschool care, where the insufficient amount of subsidized afterschool options results in children being home alone without safe supervision – often in homes that are overcrowded with unrelated families.

My son started going to Kinder at [REDACTED] and initially he was on the waiting list for after school. While he waited to get an after school spot his father had to miss work until he got after school spot. My partner had not worked since March 2020 and we lived on one income. Situations like this create an unnecessary burden to those families like us who are trying to go back to a sense of normalcy.

I urge the agencies here today to invest in scholarships and subsidies for children today for both preschool and afterschool programs.

Thank you,

Victoria Partida