

**From:** [John Burbank](#)  
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**Cc:** [Susan Brown \(susanb@kidscompany.org\)](mailto:susanb@kidscompany.org); [Brandee Paisano](#); [Angie Hicks-Maxi \(akmaxie@tinytotsdc.org\)](mailto:akmaxie@tinytotsdc.org); [Angela Griffin](#); [Farmer, LaKecia](#); [Silvernail, Devin](#); [Touch, Darozyl](#); [Turla, Alexis](#); [Katie Wilson](#); [Summer Stinson \(summerstinson@gmail.com\)](mailto:summerstinson@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** A Pandemic Wage Increase for Child Care Workers  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:46:07 PM

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**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Tammy,

I have been talking with child care providers who make up the Seattle Child Care Business Coalition. They are stressed to the breaking point, particularly in filling some of the gaps within the Seattle Public Schools. They also recognize the need to keep on staff highly qualified child care teachers and caregivers, and yet the financing of child care does not enable appropriate compensation.

The City Council, rightly, has mandated \$4.00 an hour pandemic wage increases for grocery store workers. That is paid by the employers. What we would like to propose is that a slice of the federal money Seattle is receiving would go to \$2.00 an hour pandemic wage increases for child care workers in the city. The mechanism is fairly simple. The child care employer sends to the city the payroll with hours worked, and the city cuts a check for the employer at \$2 an hour per employee, plus 15% for administration and FICA taxes. We did this with the career and wage ladder, and child care providers know how to do this.

\$12 million would cover a \$2 an hour wage increase for 2,500 child care workers in the city.

A good day to announce this would be on May 7, 2021, which is National Child Care Provider Day.

I think this can fit into the City Council Resolution identifying the City Council's priorities to maximize local use of future federal funding to support COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts.

"....Child care

1. Financial assistance to family child care providers and child care centers through 2021;
2. Resources to support the construction of new child care centers or to assist with capital improvements to existing child care centers;
3. Investments in mentoring and other programs designed to assist child care providers in obtaining licensing and navigating the process of establishing child care programs; and
4. Investments in training and coaching for child care workers to support their professional development and expand career opportunities...." and

"...Small businesses, worker assistance, and workforce recovery

.....

3. Hazard pay for essential workers funded through City contracts..."

I have also sent this request along to Teresa, and will also to Lisa, Lorena, and other members of the council.

I would be happy to talk with you about this in more detail.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks.

John

In compassion and solidarity. BLACK LIVES MATTER.

Let's make good trouble.

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