

Submitted by: Assembly Members Brawley,  
Cross and Sulte  
Prepared by: Legislative Services  
For reading: March 5, 2024

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
**AR No. 2024-89**

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING HOUSE**  
2 **BILL 89 IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE, THE DAY CARE ASSISTANCE AND**  
3 **CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM**  
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6 **WHEREAS**, the child care sector in Alaska has never faced a crisis like the one we  
7 are dealing with now – COVID-19 relief funding is gone, child care centers are  
8 closing, the sector is unable to maintain a stable workforce, and families are unable  
9 to afford the care they need; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, currently, the average family in Alaska pays 15-35% of their income for  
12 child care, and 51% of families say they can't participate in the workforce to the  
13 extent they would prefer due to child care issues. According to KIDS Count 2023,  
14 Alaska ranks 44th in the nation for economic well-being and 34% of Alaska children  
15 have parents that lack secure employment; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the problem is largely a financial matter – child care was already  
18 expensive, but increases in prices in the last three years have outpaced inflation,  
19 and without major changes to the current system and additional financial support,  
20 low- and middle-income families cannot obtain adequate child care; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage recognizes the problem and has made  
23 major financial investments in recent years to support child care and early education  
24 by investing millions in federal COVID relief funding, making long-term investments  
25 through alcohol tax funding, and beginning in 2024, dedicating local marijuana tax  
26 revenue to early education and child care, to be invested in the Anchorage Child  
27 Care and Early Education (ACCEE) Fund; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality is also closely following the Governor's Task Force on  
30 Child Care, conducting outreach to providers and parents, and identifying specific  
31 local policy changes and remove barriers in our child care licensing regulations, so  
32 that Anchorage can be part of solutions to improve access to child care; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, local policy changes and financial investments are not enough to end  
35 the child care crisis, in Anchorage and in the state as a whole – broader solutions  
36 at the state level are also necessary; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, Alaska House Bill 89, sponsored by Representative Julie Coulombe, is  
39 based on child care best practices developed in other states with bipartisan and  
40 business support, and is intended to help families get back to work, help employers  
41 fill jobs essential for economic growth, and help ensure our children have safe care  
42 and are prepared to learn when they enter the K-12 education system; and  
43

1 **WHEREAS**, HB89 includes several provisions to both improve parents’ access to  
 2 care and providers’ quality of care, including making assistance available to more  
 3 families; incentivizing employers to provide child care services or assistance to  
 4 employees through tax credits; and performance-based grants for high-quality child  
 5 care centers; and  
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7 **WHEREAS**, HB89 is an important step towards revitalizing our child care sector and  
 8 would provide more parents the opportunity to participate in the workforce, reducing  
 9 parental stress and increasing economic stability, and allow more children to grow  
 10 and develop to their full potential, increasing their readiness for school and  
 11 eventually the workforce;  
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13 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**  
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15 **Section 1.** The Anchorage Assembly supports increasing access to quality,  
 16 affordable child care for Alaska’s families, and urges the 33<sup>rd</sup> Alaska Legislature to  
 17 pass HB 89.  
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19 **Section 2.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and  
 20 approval by the Assembly.  
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22 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
 23 \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.  
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25  
 26  
 27 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chair of the Assembly

28 ATTEST:  
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32 \_\_\_\_\_  
 33 Municipal Clerk