



**Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association (BNCA)
Resolution Passed May 19, 2020**

**Resolution in support of full implementation of the Birth-to-Three For All DC Act of 2018
(L22-0179)**

WHEREAS BNCA acknowledges early childhood experiences, beginning during pregnancy and through age three, set a significant foundation for future learning, behavioral development, and health of DC children that will help enable them to thrive and lead healthy lives;¹ and

WHEREAS research shows that high-quality and affordable care and education during these uniquely critical months and years is vital to the healthy development of children,² helps reduce health and education disparities,³ helps parents remain attached to the workforce,⁴ and strengthens the local economy;⁵ and

WHEREAS the District is experiencing an acute shortage of care - an urgent need for as many as 28,357 formal early childhood education seats - for its youngest residents, including a gap of approximately 2200 in Ward 5⁶; and

WHEREAS Black and Brown families disproportionately face barriers to affording or accessing affordable high-quality early childhood education and health care services for their children;⁷ and

WHEREAS early childhood educators, perinatal health professionals, and community service navigators for infants and families deserve to be fairly compensated for the hard and vital work they perform that set our kids up for success; and

¹ <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/brain-architecture/>

² Ibid.

³ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/186281/LITESsystematic.pdf>.

⁴ www.strongnation.org/articles/780-want-to-grow-the-economy-fix-the-child-care-crisis

⁵ https://research.upjohn.org/up_press/207/ and

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/mildredwarner.org/attachments/000/000/221/original/9ba39f58494a12de863d827dea8d5a9e>

⁶ https://bainumfdn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Bainum_EL-Supply-Demand-Report_FNL_Nov-2018.pdf

⁷ <https://bainumfdn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/infants-and-toddlers-report.pdf>

WHEREAS compensation for care providers commensurate with the credentials and degrees they hold and the importance of the work they perform will lead to a larger, more stable, more highly skilled workforce through improved retention in the field;⁸ and

WHEREAS bold solutions are needed to address the District's stubbornly high preterm birth rates, infant mortality rates, maternal morbidity and mortality rates, child and family poverty rates, educational achievement gaps, and more;⁹ and

WHEREAS the [Birth-to-Three For All DC Act of 2018 \(L22-0179\)](#) - unanimously passed by the DC Council on June 26, 2018 in Council Period 22 - provides the legislative framework for the District to provide comprehensive health and child care supports to infants, toddlers, parents, and care providers; and

WHEREAS the Act builds upon the District's efforts over the past decade to improve early childhood education, maternal health, and family economic stability outcomes through initiatives such as universal pre-kindergarten, paid family and medical leave, the maternal mortality review commission, and more; and

WHEREAS the Act directly supports pre- and perinatal health for babies and parents by connecting families with home visiting services,¹⁰ embedding infant development and parenting resource specialists directly in pediatrician offices,¹¹ increasing breastfeeding resources,¹² and more; and

WHEREAS investing comprehensively in the education, health, and wellbeing of infants and toddlers and their support networks can yield major benefits for our city and its families;¹³ and

WHEREAS these comprehensive investments are likely to advance economic, health, and educational equity for children, especially low-income children of color, that will be felt for years to come.¹⁴

⁸ https://research.upjohn.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1013&context=up_press and <https://docplayer.net/92980293-Working-in-early-care-and-education.html>

⁹ <https://bainumfdn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/infants-and-toddlers-report.pdf> and https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/service_content/attachments/Perinatal%20Health%20Report%202018_FINAL.pdf and <http://www.dcpca.org/includes/storage/brio/files/204/The%20D.C.%20Womens%20Health%20Improvement%20Project.%209.12.18.pdf> and <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000001628> and https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile/overview/DC?cti=PgTab_GapComparisons&chort=1&sub=MAT&sj=DC&fs=Grade&st=MN&year=2017R3&sg=Race%2FEthnicity%3A+White+vs.+Black&sgv=Difference&ts=Single+Year&tss=2015R3-2017R3&sfj=NP

¹⁰ www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/overall_findings_talkingpts.pdf and www.zerotothree.org/resources/997-reaching-families-where-they-live-supporting-parents-and-child-development-through-home-visiting

¹¹ www.healthysteps.org/article/what-is-healthysteps-11

¹² www.medicaldaily.com/5-ways-newborn-breastfeeding-can-improve-your-babys-health-246214 and www.breastfeedingbasics.com/articles/breastfeeding-postpartum-depression

¹³ <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/13-roi-toolbox/> and <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED510329.pdf>

¹⁴ www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2017/10/2017_FromtheGroundUp.pdf

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BNCA supports the full funding and implementation of the Birth-to-Three For All DC Act of 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the District's Mayor, our Ward 5 Councilmember, and the entire District Council to ensure there is sufficient funding for the full implementation of this Act in future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on all residents and stakeholders in the District of Columbia to be partners in the funding of this vital legislation; and

With a quorum present, BNCA approved this resolution on May 19, 2020, by a unanimous vote, with zero abstaining.

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel Schramm".

Daniel Schramm
President, BNCA