Best Starts for Kids Endorsement Resolution

WHEREAS: Children need a stable home environment and access to basic needs in order to thrive at home and in school. AND

WHEREAS: King County serves only 4.6% of children aged birth to 3, resulting in a number of children who do not receive the services that they need to acquire skills to allow them to be successful in school. AND

WHEREAS: Identifying developmental disabilities early allows children and their families to get the help they need. Early Intervention Services are critical during the early years, the period of the greatest brain development. AND

WHEREAS: Research clearly indicates that the return on investment of high quality early learning is $7 for every $1 invested. Cognitive and social/emotional development supported by high quality early learning build a strong foundation for academic success in school and later in life. AND

WHEREAS: In King County there are an estimated 18,000 kinship caregivers. They include grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and others. AND

WHEREAS: In King County, Food insecurity rate among children is nearly 20%, an estimated 51% of which don’t qualify for federal assistance programs and have to rely solely on food banks and meal programs. AND

WHEREAS: 45% of households in King County receiving SNAP benefits have children under age 18. AND

WHEREAS: According to a Group Health study in Washington, the increased annual health care costs for victims of Domestic Violence (DV) can persist as much as 15 years after the cessation of abuse. AND

WHEREAS: Investments in youth and young adult homeless services provide kids a platform to launch into successful adulthood instead of slipping through the cracks. Prevention supports connect youth and young adult to friends, family or other stable situations as quickly as possible to ensure they return to safe and sustainable homes. AND

WHEREAS: The King County Council is expected to vote on The Executives’ proposed ordinance Best Starts for Kids to place it on the ballot for public vote in November 2015 and that this ordinance will improve outcomes for children and families dealing with the challenges listed here ; NOW

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That our organization supports King County legislation that invests in a stable, adequate and dedicated funding source focused on improving the lives of children and families across King County.