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THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW OFFICE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND BEVERLY HILLS BAR ASSOCIATIONS  
 The Southern California Affiliate of The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

February 28, 2005

Joyce Fahey  
 Mayor Pro Tem  
 City of Manhattan Beach  
 1400 Highland Avenue  
 Manhattan Beach, California 90266

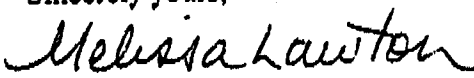
Dear Joyce:

Thank you for agreeing to take a look at the resolution passed by the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. We hope that the City Council will be interested in passing a similar resolution.

My firm, Public Counsel, is working with the Oakland-based group Preschool California and several other statewide organizations to make quality preschool programs available for children whose families choose to enroll them. Public Counsel is seeking resolutions from a number of key entities in the Los Angeles area to demonstrate the broad and growing base of support for preschool for all.

Across California, momentum is building toward increasing access to quality preschool. In fact, as you know, Los Angeles County is set to launch universal preschool on a limited scale in March 2005. Although Los Angeles will be initiating universal preschool soon, we will need additional funding on a statewide basis for the program to continue beyond a few years. By adopting this resolution, Manhattan Beach can help heighten the profile of the preschool cause in the Los Angeles area, Sacramento and statewide. The city would join a growing number of powerful advocates for children, and would be listed by Preschool California along with others who support achieving preschool for all.

Will you please let me know if you have any questions or what additional information you may need in order to proceed. My number is 213-385-2977, extension 135.

Sincerely yours,  
  
 Melissa Lawton  
 Staff Attorney  
 Public Counsel, Child Care Law Project

Att.

"There is no greater justice than equal justice."

Resolution 2005-5  
A Resolution in Support of Voluntary,  
Quality Preschool for All 4-Year-Olds in California

WHEREAS, by partnering with parents, who are their children's first teachers, quality preschool programs prepare children to do their best by nurturing their social-emotional, cognitive, linguistic and physical development; enhancing their self confidence; and paving the way for a lifetime of learning; and

WHEREAS, during their K-12 years and beyond, children who attend quality preschool perform better on standardized achievement tests in reading and math; exhibit more positive behaviors in the classroom; are more likely to graduate from high school, continue their education and be more prosperous as adults; and

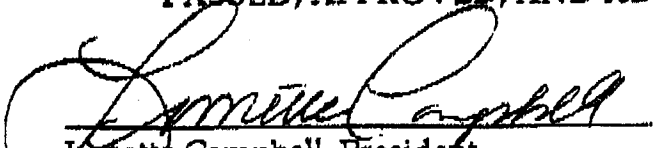
WHEREAS, ensuring access to quality preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds whose parents choose to send them has proven to be one of the soundest educational and financial investments the public can make, providing demonstrated, significant, long-term savings on the costs of special education, grade retention, welfare and crime; and

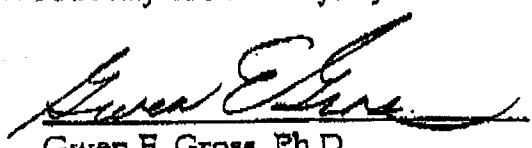
WHEREAS, preschool programs should be funded adequately in order to assure adherence to established standards of quality, and to attract and keep professionals who are educated and compensated at levels comparable to those in California's K-12 system; be inclusive of children with special needs; be offered in culturally, ethnically and linguistically appropriate settings; be clearly articulated with the K-12 system and programs serving younger children; be linked to full-day, affordable early care and education programs to meet the needs of working families; and be subject to research-based assessment to assure desired outcomes for children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Beach Unified School District urges the state of California to invest in voluntary, quality preschool for all 4-year-olds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Manhattan Beach Unified School District will work with a broad spectrum of community members and state policy makers to increase voluntary access to quality preschool for all 4-year-olds through both public and private providers in a variety of settings, including schools, child care centers, Head Start programs and family child care homes.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 16th day of February, by:

  
Lynette Campbell, President  
Board of Trustees

  
Gwen E. Gross, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools