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Subject: Bill 42-21 Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity

As a private citizen interested in the issue of early childhood education, I would like to weigh in on Bill 42-21 Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity.

I applaud the Council for having the foresight to create this coordinating entity whose intent is to “expand access to high quality early care and education programs for children from birth to 5 years old - especially children in low-income families, those with special needs and those learning English as a second language.” However, I am very concerned about the composition of the Board. Having a 25-person board, consisting of 13 government officials and 12 from the private sector could easily lead to dysfunction.

Having considerable experience with not-for-profit organizations, I take the position that this entity is not being programmed for success. In my opinion, the primary concerns of the governmental officials will be the effect on their own area of responsibility, which may or may not coincide with the overall goal of the entity. In addition, I question the need for multiples from various groups in the private sector. The tri-partite leadership envisioned further complicates the ability of such a board to function.

While I understand the need to engage different constituencies, there are a variety of strategic planning techniques that enable organizations to include the input and views of various groups and reach consensus. A more nimble operational Board can integrate diverse perspectives and reach decisions far more effectively than what is proposed.

Therefore, I respectfully suggest that further attention be given to the composition of the Board, the members of which will have a fiduciary responsibility to operate in the best interests of its constituencies.

Sincerely,

Elaine Kotell Binder