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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Monterey Bay Economic Partnership Endorses Safe, Affordable, Quality Child Care Act**

(Marina, CA) - Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) joins a bipartisan group of local leaders across Monterey County to endorse the Safe, Affordable, Quality Child Care Act.

MBEP President and CEO Tahra Goraya joined a press conference on Monday, June 6 at Hartnell College as Care for Monterey County Kids introduced the Safe, Affordable, Quality Child Care Act, a Citizens' Initiative aimed at improving the quality and availability of affordable child care and preschool in Monterey County.

With signatures certified by the Registrar of Voters, this Act will go to the voters this November.

The grassroots initiative would raise approximately \$5.5 million annually to support early education programs and services in Monterey County. MBEP joins a long and growing [list of supporters](#) from local, state and federal elected officials to parents, educators, business owners, community advocates, and people working across multiple sectors like tourism, agricultural, and early care and education sectors.

"Monterey Bay Economic Partnership is proud to endorse the Safe, Affordable, Quality Child Care Act that would raise \$5.5 million annually to support early childhood education programs and services in Monterey County," said MBEP President & CEO Tahra Goraya. "Bottom line is that investing in high-quality early childhood education makes good business sense. Supporting our parents and current workforce bolsters business and economy today while educating and building the workforce for tomorrow with strong and quality education for our children."

Improving access to affordable child care and early education isn't just vital to the future success of children, it's also an economic issue: Too many workers can't access the safe, affordable, quality child care and preschool needed for their children while they return to work, and only one in four children in Monterey County is ready for kindergarten because too many families lack access to early childhood education.

As of today, the initiative has collected over 10,000 signatures from registered voters in Monterey County, far surpassing the 5,882-signature threshold needed to qualify for the November ballot. This event marks the culmination of the signature-gathering drive and the signatures will be turned in to the Registrar of Voters on June 7th.

For more information about the Safe, Affordable, Quality Child Care Act, go to [www.Yes4MontereyCountyKids.org](http://www.Yes4MontereyCountyKids.org).

### **About Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP):**

[Monterey Bay Economic Partnership](#) (MBEP) is a regional member-supported nonprofit organization consisting of public, private, and civic entities located throughout the counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz. Founded in 2015, our mission is to improve the economic health and quality of life in the region.