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Governor Evers' budget provides necessary investment in our youth and families

**Statement of Common Council President Cavalier Johnson
February 10, 2021**

Yesterday as part of his 2021-23 biennial budget, Governor Tony Evers proposed an investment of more than \$100 million toward child care initiatives. As a longtime advocate of early childhood efforts, I applaud the Governor's substantial proposal to make sure that our state's families have high-quality, affordable and accessible child care options available to them.

Among the investments in the Governor's proposal are: creation of grant programs for providers across the state that would focus on supporting infant and toddler day cares, helping increase day care staff's benefits and wages, and creating pilot programs in "child care deserts," where care is hard to find; investing more than \$3 million in funding for early childhood social emotional training and technical assistance; expanding the 53206 Early Care and Education Initiative to support access to high-quality childcare for families to adjacent zip codes; and allowing the use of the Family and Medical Leave Act when a family's child care provider is closed.

These types of actions are exactly what our families need to both stabilize households and help support our economy both now and into the future.

As these proposals are discussed in the coming weeks, I strongly urge the Legislature to keep these investments intact as they are in the best interest of families statewide.

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