April 2, 2025
To: House Delivery of Government Efficiency Committee
Re: House Bill 3963
Position: For

Chairman Capriglione, Vice Chair Bhojani, and Members of the **House Delivery of Government Efficiency Committee:**

Philanthropy Advocates thanks you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 3963 (HB 3963) by Chairman Capriglione. This bill represents a meaningful step toward improving access to early childhood education in Texas by codifying the development of a statewide Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).

Research shows that access to high-quality early childhood opportunities improves children's academic achievement and success later in life. With over 60% of the 2.3 million children under age five in Texas having all available parents in the workforce[1], accessible early learning programs are essential for a strong state economy. Texas's current early childhood system offers immense potential in supporting Texas families and employers, improving long-term educational attainment for students and realizing the state's long-term prosperity. However, in its current state, the Texas early childhood system is fragmented and does not leverage statewide learnings from local bright spots and successes that do exist.

Currently, state leaders lack data to answer basic questions about the early childhood education system comprehensively or to make data-driven decisions. Data is either not connected across program types or is not published in a way that is useful for understanding the full picture across the multiple state agencies involved in serving young Texans (Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)).

State leaders should be able to answer key questions such as: Which characteristics of various early childhood programs are associated with positive outcomes for which children? And, is the number of quality services and programs increasing over time?

By codifying the establishment of a statewide integrated data system for early childhood, HB 3963 will:
- **Enable agencies to identify service gaps**, align efforts, and coordinate program delivery.
- **Inform data-driven policy decisions** that enhance program effectiveness and efficiency.
- **Provide insight** into the outcomes of Texas' ECE investments and their relationship to school readiness and long-term academic success.
- **Adhere to state and federal privacy laws**, utilizing de-identified, existing data—without authorizing new data collection.

Texas philanthropy, like the state, depends on accessible, reliable data to inform their investments. This bill is essential for both state leaders and the Texas philanthropic sector to maximize resources and make evidence-driven investments.

We encourage this committee to advance HB 3963 to support key steps towards a more efficient and effective early childhood education and care system, pivotal to student learning and parental access to the workforce.

Sincerely,
Becky Calahan
Managing Director, Strategy & Operations

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[1] U.S. Census Bureau, 2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008.