

I am writing in support of SCR 1, to forever honor and remember the legacy of Sarah Cohen-Doherty and her continuing impact on our children, families, and communities.

Sarah is a dear friend and former colleague. Throughout our friendship, I got to see and take part of Sarah's brainstorming to create engaging lesson plans for the kids she was teaching. When she wasn't working, she tried them out on me because her kids mattered to her, and she wanted to make sure her lesson plans were not only fun, but meaningful. She was always invested in early learning, even when she wasn't working. She lived this work.

Eventually, I had the opportunity to work with Sarah at Social Venture Partners, where she shifted her role from teaching early learners, to changing the bigger system to invest in equitable access to early learning opportunities. Sarah is the magic behind the scenes we often don't see or hear about. She is the inspiration, the driver, and the force behind so much of Preschool for All's efforts, as well as the relationship builder behind so many nonprofits and community partners working to change what early learning can look like in our county, and our state through Social Venture Partners. We often don't recognize the people behind the scenes, and this is one small way we can honor her tireless commitment. We can also use SCR 1 to inspire us to continue and grow her legacy that she already paved for us. We still have work to do.

I know Sarah's investment in early education means that the younger generation will grow up having so many more opportunities, learnings, and connections because of her behind-the-scenes impact. Let's honor not only what she has done, but what she will continue to do through her legacy, memory, and through the foundation she has built for us all.