Well-thought-out plan

Regarding “Help targeting housing gaps” (Editorial, April 26): The editorial on Propositions C and D criticizes Prop. C’s aim to charge large commercial real estate a 3.5 percent rents receipt surtax as a “far less-thought-out effort to subsidize child care programs.”

While your critique was about the amount of the surcharge and whether a real estate rents receipts tax is appropriate for this purpose (a criticism that could equally apply to Prop. D), it also implied the lack of a plan. In fact, San Francisco has a well-thought-out plan and clear priorities for how to use funds generated by Prop. C.

San Francisco’s Office of Early Care and Education completed a citywide child care plan in 2016. The S.F. Child Care Planning and Advisory Council recently released an updated child care needs assessment. The city has an effective child care system that is severely underfunded. Thousands of San Francisco families struggle to pay for child care. The Office of Early Care and Education has determined the costs to meet the needs of families and to pay early educators a living wage at over $300 million per year. Prop. C would generate over $100 million annually for these needs.

Prop. C is also a housing strategy. Child care is often families’ biggest expense; even bigger than housing. Prop. C will ensure that San Francisco is a city in which families of diverse means can live and thrive.

_Sandee Blechman, Executive Director, Children’s Council of San Francisco_