



May 26, 2016

Honorable Kevin de León, Senate President pro Tempore
Honorable Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: LWC Support for Assembly version of child care budget investment

Dear Pro Tem de León and Speaker Rendon:

The Legislative Women's Caucus remains fully committed to ensuring the State make a significant investment in child care this year.

The Assembly has taken action that is responsive to the Legislative Women's Caucus' \$800 million ask and embraces our call for quality infrastructure. They have allocated three times the amount of child care slots as the Senate did and increased rates in such a manner that they provide access for families based on current costs. In addition to reasonable one-time expenditures, they have also increased the SMI threshold and increased eligibility to 12 months.

As the budget moves through the process, we appreciate the willingness of Senate leadership to consider additional funding through the conference committee process, but it is the Assembly's investment that sets the tone for a meaningful discussion in conference about the importance of early care and education for working families and as an engine of our economy.

While we understand the need to curb unnecessary spending and continue down a path of fiscal prudence, we must invest in programs where outcomes will benefit our families, our state, and our economy. For every dollar devoted to high-quality early childhood education, society saves seven.

For these reasons we support the Assembly actions on a child care and early education plan.

Sincerely,

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON, Chair
Legislative Women's Caucus
Senate District 19

CRISTINA GARCIA, Vice-Chair
Legislative Women's Caucus
Assembly District 58