**[INSERT LETTERHEAD]**

**Submit you support letter through the** legislature’s online portal at: <https://shum.senate.ca.gov/>. Click on “Submit a Position Letter.” See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWWEuLoqPng&feature=youtu.be> if you need help.

 **Also email your letter to** **Enedina.Garcia@sen.ca.gov** **and jackiewong@grace-inc.org.**

**Date – Letters due by Tuesday, March 19th at NOON**

Honorable Melissa Hurtado

Senate Committee on Human Services

1020 N Street, Room 521
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 298 End Child Poverty Act of 2020 (Caballero) - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Hurtado:

**[Name of Your Organization]** supports Senate Bill 298, which commits the Legislature to a goal of ending deep child poverty in 4 years and reducing child poverty by 50 percent over 20 years and provides a framework of research-backed solutions to achieve it.

SB 298 establishes a permanent framework through the legislative process that will assist the Legislature in investing in programs that have been proven to significantly reduce child poverty. In addition, SB 298 requires that the state monitor and measure progress by producing biannual reports analyzing how the proposed state budget will impact the child poverty rate.

**Optional: Include 2 or more sentences about why your organization cares.**

Expert analysis has determined that this comprehensive approach will end deep child poverty in four years and will not only reduce overall poverty by 50 percent, but it will provide an over 2:1 fiscal benefit through a reduction in costs associated with health, social service and justice programs and increased tax revenues.

Currently, California has the highest rate of child poverty in the nation according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Supplemental Poverty Measure that accounts for the high cost of living in our state. That translates to one in five children or 1.9 million including 450,000 living in deep poverty or below 50 percent of the federal poverty line. Lastly, according to the California Budget Center, children of color are more likely to live in poverty. Thirty-one percent of Latino children live in poverty, twenty-eight percent of African American children live in poverty even though African American children only comprise seven percent of the State’s population. This is an issue of economic and racial justice.

The fact is that poverty at this level will have significant negative impact on the state budget and the income inequities between the haves and the have nots; unless we adopt measures to reduce child poverty now. [**Name of Your Organization**] respectfully asks for your “**AYE**” vote.

Sincerely,

**[INSERT SIGNATURE]**

**Your Name**

**Your Title**