[Date]

The Honourable Gavin Newsom,

Governor of California

State Capitol,

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 865 (Quirk-Silva) Equal Access to Child Care for Working Families – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom,

On behalf of [Name of Organization], I write to request your signature on Assembly Bill 865[[1]](#footnote-1) to bring fair and equitable access to child care for all income eligible working families. Further, the policy of reimbursing family child care and center providers a set amount was triggered during the pandemic and was integral to providers being able to keep their doors open serving families and essential workers.

For decades, subsidized working families faced discrimination in accessing high-quality child care arrangements simply because they worked in industries with jobs that had on-call, fluctuating or unstable work hours. Prior to the pandemic, parents with flexible or unstable work schedules could secure a subsidized child care voucher. However, these specific vouchers were reimbursed based solely on the attendance of a family and not on enrolment. Because these vouchers did not guarantee a set reimbursement, higher-quality family child care providers and centers with set operational budgets could not risk serving these families and suffer a financial loss.

During the pandemic, the Governor signed Executive Order N-45-20[[2]](#footnote-2) and subsequent budget bills to enact until June 30, 2022 access for all subsidized families - regardless of work schedules – to choose the best family child care provider and/or center to meet their family needs. This choice for families also guaranteed the providers that accepted their children would be reimbursed a set certificated amount that could be budgeted. This historical action created a level playing field of equity wherein all income eligible families had the same level of access to all child care settings, eliminated the discriminatory practice of not accepting a voucher from a family with a flexible work schedule, and most important of all provided children with stable care consistent with both federal and state law.

If AB 865 is not signed, then the outcome on July 1, 2022 will be tens of thousands of children whose parents do not have set work hours will be disenrolled from stable high-quality child care settings. This outcome has the potential to change the upward trajectory for our earliest learners to a downward spiral of uncertainty.

Finally, AB 865 continues to implement the vision of Governor Newsom and the Early Childhood Policy Council to expand “…California children’s access to quality education and health care, funds a two-generation strategy that invests in parents so they can invest in their children, and eases some of the financial pressures on parents to help them provide opportunities for their children and achieve economic security for their families.[[3]](#footnote-3)”

Please sign AB 865.

Sincerely,

[Insert Signature]

1. [Bill Text - AB-865 Childcare services: alternative payment programs: direct deposits: reserve funds.](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB865) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [4.4.20-EO-N-45-20 (ca.gov)](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/4.4.20-EO-N-45-20.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Governor Newsom Announces Early Childhood Policy Council and a Team to Develop Master Plan for Early Learning and Care | California Governor](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2019/11/22/governor-newsom-announces-early-childhood-policy-council-and-a-team-to-develop-master-plan-for-early-learning-and-care/) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)