



California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA)

1435 River Park Drive, Suite 406

Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: (916) 567-6797

www.cappaonline.com

CHILDREN LEARNING, PARENTS EARNING, COMMUNITIES GROWING

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 228 (Wilson) Strategic Stockpile of Baby Formula – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wood:

On behalf of the California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA), I am writing to express our **SUPPORT** of **Assembly Bill 228: Equity, Period** authored by Assemblymember Wilson, which would require the California Department of Public Health to create a program to strategically stockpile baby formula that could be tapped to ease future shortages.

Since 1978, CAPPA has given a voice to community-based programs, known as Alternative Payment Programs (APPs), which are specifically created to work with income eligible families facing a host of poverty related issues. Originally, these community-based public and private nonprofits were created to support the parental choice of parents to access child care that not only supported their work needs but also provided the critical nurturing and learning needs of children starting at birth. APPs evolved from a pilot study wherein the desired outcome was to promote parental choice of low-income families to secure subsidized child care to a current system where greater family needs are being helped. Today, in all 58 counties APPs exist as a community-based safety net that works with income eligible parents to secure subsidy vouchers that support THEIR choice in purchasing stable, affordable and accessible child care, Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs), transportation, housing, mental and health care, home visiting, immigration, food, jobs, foster care bridge, trauma informed care and more.

In 2022, the United States experienced a severe shortage of infant formula as a result of the 2021-22 global supply chain crisis compounded by a large scale product recall, import restrictions, and market concentration. AB 228 will put California in the unique position of being the only state to secure a stockpile of infant formula so that families can be served during this and future shortages. This is one step toward supporting our most vulnerable families by ensuring they have they have the resources they need.

Knowing that their babies will always have a safe and reliable source of formula on hand, despite global formula shortages, will give families, especially our most vulnerable ones, a little less to worry about. For these reasons, CAPPA is pleased to **SUPPORT** AB 228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Denyne Micheletti Colburn'.

Denyne Micheletti Colburn, CEO
CAPPA