**SUPPORT LETTER AB 596 (Reyes): Child Care Rate Reform & Suspension of Family Fees**

*All letters to the Committee and Republican Caucus Consultant shall be submitted electronically through the Position Letter Portal at* [**Position Letter Portal**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)*.*

PLACE ON LETTER HEAD

 [DATE]

The Honorable [Senator/Assemblymember First Name Last Name], Chair

Senate/Assembly Committee Name

Street Address, Suite XX

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 596 (Reyes): Child Care Rate Reform & Suspension of Family Fees – (SUPPORT)**

Dear Chair [Last Name]:

On behalf of [Organization’s name], I am writing in **SUPPORT** of **Assembly Bill 596 (Reyes) – Childcare Rate Reform**.AB 596 will help childcare providers and families by transitioning providers to a single cost-based reimbursement rate, suspending family fees until an equitable sliding scale for family fees is established, and funding providers using an enrollment-based contract earning mechanism. This bill is a key opportunity to prioritize and support California’s youngest children and their families.

[Include a paragraph about your organization]

The COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened the need for affordable childcare, especially for mothers, caregivers, and communities of color, mostly essential workers, who work in low-paid service industries and have borne the brunt of hardships during the pandemic. Working parents and childcare providers are the backbone of our economy. [97% of childcare workers](https://cscce.berkeley.edu/publications/data-snapshot/demographics-of-the-california-ece-workforce/) are women. The vast majority are women of color. When we fail to pay them a dignified wage, we are upholding a system rooted in racism, sexism, and economic injustice.

AB 596 will require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to apply to the federal Health and Human Services Agency to amend the State’s current Child Care and Development Fund State Plan to change reimbursement rates to an alternative methodology to include a cost-based model that is consistent with the recommendations of the CDSS-led Rate and Quality Workgroup report and the Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC).

California must make a multi-year commitment to adopting rate reform and provide an immediate down payment to address California’s childcare crisis. Suspending family fees is an efficient anti-poverty solution that has already proven successful during the pandemic. We urge you to address the childcare crisis and transform childcare and early learning in California to ensure young children and families can thrive.

It is for these reasons that [Name of Organization] is pleased to **SUPPORT** AB 596 and urge your support.

Sincerely,

<INSERT SIGNATURE BLOCK>

[INSERT YOUR FULL NAME]

[INSERT YOUR TITLE]

[INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION’S NAME]