



ASSEMBLYMEMBER TIM GRAYSON

AB 2774:

CHILDCARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

Summary:

AB 2774 establishes the Childcare for Working Families Task Force and requires the Task Force to submit a report that recommends future comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing challenges faced by working families in accessing flexible, affordable, and quality childcare options.

Background:

Childcare in California is a critical component of family support and early childhood education. The quality of children's environments and experiences during these years has lasting effects. High-quality childcare can have positive, long-term impacts on children ranging from improved cognitive, emotional, and behavioral functioning to better health, educational attainment, and earnings later in life. Childcare also plays a critical role in family financial stability.

In California, childcare facilities are regulated and licensed by the Department of Social Services, and the state offers a variety of subsidized childcare and development programs in order to assist low-income families.

Problem:

Affordable childcare is unfortunately out of reach for many Californians. In fact, California was ranked the least affordable state for center-based infant care in the nation in 2020,¹ and just 14% of the state's eligible infants and toddlers have access to subsidized childcare. On average, a two-parent household with an infant in California paid 16.7% of income for center-based care.

The lack of affordable childcare has also become a barrier to work, especially for mothers, who disproportionately take on caregiving responsibilities when their family cannot find or afford childcare.²

Solution:

California's children need a safe space to learn and grow while parents are at work, and childcare is an essential component for the livelihood of workers and communities. Although California has made some progress, our state's childcare system must continue to prioritize investments in order to build a comprehensive, high-quality system that is accessible and affordable to all.

AB 2774 will seek to address the challenges that working families face in accessing flexible, affordable, and quality childcare options. Specifically, the bill will establish the Childcare for Working Families Task Force to recommend comprehensive strategies and solutions in order to address our state's childcare affordability crisis.

Support:

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¹ <https://www.childcareaware.org/demanding-change-repairing-our-child-care-system/>

² <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/child-care-crisis-keeping-women-workforce/>