

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Eloise Gómez Reyes

FORTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB-194

SUMMARY

AB 194 invests \$1 billion to increase the number of subsidized child care slots for the highest need families in California, expanding access to the state's early childhood education (ECE) programs.

EXISTING LAW/BACKGROUND

Well established research shows that high-quality early childhood education programs equip young children with the social, emotional, and cognitive skills they need to be ready to enter kindergarten and have a bright future. ECE programs also provide necessary support to our state's working families by allowing them to go to work knowing that their children will be in a safe and enriching environment. Yet, families often find that ECE programs, particularly child care, are expensive and difficult to find, especially for low-income communities.

There is currently a severe shortage of child care in California. Recent data shows that 1.2 million children are eligible for state-subsidized child care but do not receive it due to the lack of access in the state (California Budget & Policy Center; 2016). The shortage is most acute for our youngest children, ages zero to three, with less than 14% of infants and toddlers who qualify for subsidized child care actually receiving services. These large gaps in access mean that of our state's children are missing out on essential learning opportunities.

To ensure the future success of our state, there is a critical need to substantially increase the availability of subsidized child care for young children.

THIS BILL

This bill would improve access to subsidized ECE programs in the state by investing \$1 billion dollars to create additional child care slots. This funding will go towards Alternative Payment programs and General Child Care, which generally serve the vast majority of eligible infants and toddlers in the system where the need is most dire. This critical investment will bring California closer to meeting the high demand for child care in the state to address the needs of families.

SUPPORT

Child Care Resource Center (Sponsor)
Child Care Law Center (Sponsor)
California Alternative Payment Program Association (Sponsor)
Parent Voices (Sponsor)

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