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March XX, 2019

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT for AB 194: Building Equitable Futures for Families Act (Reyes)

Dear Assemblymember Reyes,

On behalf of the [Agency Name], [type of agency] providing services in [County/location], we are pleased to support AB 194, the Building Equitable Futures for Families Act. AB 194 will immediately improve access to affordable child care by appropriating \$1,000,000,000 over three years toward increasing the number of low-income children served in Alternative Payment programs and General Child Care.

[For service agencies - paragraph about your waiting list and need in your county]

[Optional: This disparity between eligible families and lack of funding is not exclusive to our service area.]

With good, affordable child care, families can go to work with peace of mind knowing that their children are safe, nurtured and learning. However, the vast majority of families cannot afford child care because the state does not provide enough affordable child care spaces to support children from the beginning of their lives.

The California Center on Budget and Policy estimates that there are 1.8 million eligible children waiting for care. AB 194 will create a strong start for children and their families by funding thousands of new child care spaces. These child care spaces will have two-generational impact, by both supporting the child's development and the family's economic success. Supporting children from the beginning of their lives lays the foundation for a brighter future for everyone: children will be ready for school, their families are able to work and provide for their needs, and our communities grow stronger.

If we want to close the opportunity gap for children of color, we must invest in a multi-year effort that allows all children to thrive. AB 194 expands access to affordable child care from birth and supports the whole family moving forward. This bill is particularly responsive to the access needs of many of the state's low-income working families, disproportionately single mothers of color who work in jobs meeting the demands of our 24/7 economy. Child care options must meet their unique needs, which for a majority of low-income parents include non-standard and inconsistent work schedules. AB 194 is key to addressing the inter-generational cycles of poverty by allowing parents to work and create opportunities for their families. This is how we promote equity from the start.

We thank you for your leadership in authoring AB 194 and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Legislature to win approval of this important measure.

I can be reached at [phone/email address] should issues arise or information needs clarification.

Sincerely,
[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]

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