

AB 167 (Rubio)
California Childcare-Early Head Start Partnership Act
Increasing Access to High-Quality Childcare for Vulnerable Babies
As Introduced January 8, 2019

Summary

AB 167 increases access to high-quality child care with comprehensive family supports for the most vulnerable infants and toddlers to help provide California's babies with a healthy and bright start.

Background

The first three years of life are uniquely important for a child's growth and development, and set the foundation for lifelong health, well-being, and success. A child's brain undergoes an amazing period of development from birth to age three, producing more than a million new neural connections each second.

Disparities in learning start at birth, fueled by the opportunity gaps and toxic stress caused by poverty, inequality and other adverse conditions. Two year olds from families in poverty are already six months behind their peers in language development.

Research shows high-quality early learning programs with comprehensive support services can prevent or mitigate these disparities, and improve young children's language and social skills, school success, and adult earnings. Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman concludes that, for children in poverty, high quality early learning programs that begin very early make the biggest and most lasting difference in improving their lives.

The federal Early Head Start program provides comprehensive, high-quality child development and family support services with a two-generation approach to poor infants and toddlers. Evaluations show the program improves children's long-term cognitive, language, and social-emotional development, increases kindergarten readiness and strengthens parenting skills.

California's current early care and education system leaves too many low-income babies behind.

Just 9% of California's low-income infants and toddlers are enrolled in subsidized child care. Even fewer families have access to the high-quality early learning programs with comprehensive support services that have the greatest positive impact on low-income babies.

Details of the Bill

AB 167 helps close the early learning opportunity gap facing our youngest children by strengthening and expanding child care and development programs for infants and toddlers based on the effective, high-quality Early Head Start model.

The bill supports child care centers and family child care homes serving infants and toddlers to reach and sustain the high quality standards that are proven drive positive child outcomes. Providers would receive a \$4,000 per child supplemental grant to support better trained teachers, strengthen family support services, offer developmental screenings, and provide connections to well-child health and dental care and other social services and community resources.

The bill also provides high-quality child care and comprehensive support services to 20,000 additional infants and toddlers living in high-need communities.

Support

Kidango (co-sponsor)
 Children's Defense Fund-California (co-sponsor)
 Zero to Three (co-sponsor)

For More Information

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