Sample Support Letter for SB 321

Please send on letterhead by April 1 EOD

Send via position letter portal: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/faces/index.xhtml>

Please also send a copy to **Strong Start CA Campaign:** strongstartcalifornia@gmail.com

**First time submitting a letter on the new system? Watch this** [**short video**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWWEuLoqPng&feature=youtu.be) **explaining the process! (**[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWWEuLoqPng&feature=youtu.be**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWWEuLoqPng&feature=youtu.be)**)**

**[DATE]**

Hon. Melissa Hurtado, Chair

State Capitol, Room 2054

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 321 A Strong Start for CalWORKs Families Act (Mitchell) (SUPPORT)**

Dear Chairperson Hurtado :

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ORGANIZATION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is pleased to support SB 321 (Mitchell), which gives families entering the CalWORKs program the stable child care they need to get ahead and stay ahead. SB 321 streamlines Stage 1 eligibility rules so that families have more options to improve their future. Providing continuous, stable Stage 1 child care minimizes costly and harmful disruptions for children, parents, employers, and child care providers. SB 321 is the next step in advancing economic security for families struggling to make ends meet, and a strong start for all children, particularly children of color. This budget request would adopt the recommendations for Stage 1 child care contained in the Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon ECE Commission.

[ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION, WHY YOU SUPPORT SB 321]

Stable child care is critical to strengthen parents’ ability to work, improve their prospects in the job market, and increase their earning potential. Continuity of care creates the stable conditions

children need for healthy development and preparing them for lifelong success, inside and outside of the classroom.

The lack of initial, stable child care holds families back and threatens their ability to fully benefit from the safety net supports of the CalWORKs program. The law assures families that affordable child care will be available them as they work or participate in welfare-to-work activities, however many families entering CalWORKs are not getting the Stage 1 child care that they need. Parents are often unaware that they even qualify for child care and the burdensome process of obtaining a child care authorization is full of unnecessary red tape. For families who do get a Stage 1 child care authorization, it is usually short-term, sporadic, and frequently disrupted, leaving them nowhere to turn. Moreover, when families do not have safe, stable child care for their children, this often leads to being sanctioned, resulting in benefit reductions that drive families into deep poverty and homelessness.

The Strong Start for CalWORKs Families Act (SB 321) seeks to fulfill the promise made when the CalWORKS program was created 20 years ago, that families would have affordable child care to keep their children safe and learning, and that families would experience no break in child care services as they transitioned between the three CalWORKs child care stages. By aligning the technology, systems and infrastructure of our programs, this bill takes the next logical step to give all children a strong start.

When children can thrive and families can work and provide for their needs, California grows stronger immediately and in the future. For these reasons the \_\_\_\_ORGANIZATION\_\_\_\_\_ urges you to support the Strong Start for CalWORKs Families Act (SB 321) to streamline Stage 1 child care eligibility rules so that all families enrolled in CalWORKs are afforded the same benefits of reliable, continuous child care necessary to improve their family’s success and end the cycle of poverty.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE

NAME

WORK TITLE, ORGANIZATION

Cc: Members of Senate Human Services Committee