



# ASSEMBLYMAN JIM PATTERSON, 23<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

## AB 2552 (PATTERSON)

### CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS: HOMELESS CHILDREN

#### SUMMARY

AB 2552 would require that first priority for state-funded child development services go to children experiencing homelessness. It would also ensure that these children are not required to provide a fixed address or mailing address. Additionally, this bill would prohibit these children from being denied immediate enrollment into that program for failure to supply documentation of age-appropriate immunization.

Lastly, this bill would require service providers to conduct outreach to families experiencing homelessness to share information about subsidized childcare programs.

#### EXISTING LAW

Existing law establishes the Child Care and Development Services Act, with the purpose of providing a comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective system of child development services. The law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt rules and regulations on eligibility, enrollment, and priority of services needed to implement the act. The act also requires a physical examination, including age-appropriate immunization, before, or within 6 weeks, of enrollment in a child development program.

#### PROBLEM

According to point-in-time estimates, about 8,000 families and 14,000 children were homeless in California in 2019.<sup>1</sup> In fact, in the United States, infancy is the age at which individuals are most likely to enter shelter or transitional housing, followed by ages one to five.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://calmatters.org/explainers/californias-homelessness-crisis-explained/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://aspe.hhs.gov/execsum/research-early-childhood-homelessness>

Studies show that the impact from homelessness during a child's early years is harmful to their overall development—with strong correlations between behavioral and learning challenges in school.<sup>3</sup>

Currently, 44% of young women who experience homelessness, ages 18 to 25, are pregnant or mothers.<sup>4</sup> Pregnant and parenting homeless youth are limited in their ability to continue their education and/or maintain employment due to barriers to childcare.

#### SOLUTION

This bill would improve access to child care for families experiencing homelessness by:

- Requiring that first priority for state-funded child development services go to children experiencing homelessness;
- Providing that a child experiencing homelessness in a childcare program is not required to provide a fixed address or mailing address;
- Requiring childcare and child development service providers to conduct outreach to families experiencing homelessness to share information about subsidized childcare programs; and
- Prohibiting an eligible child who is experiencing homelessness from being denied immediate enrollment into a program for failure to supply documentation of age-appropriate immunization.

#### SPONSOR

This bill is author-sponsored.

#### CONTACT

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/opre\\_homefam\\_brief3\\_hhs\\_children\\_02\\_24\\_2017\\_b508.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/opre_homefam_brief3_hhs_children_02_24_2017_b508.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.chapinhall.org/news/one-million-children-young-parent-experienced-homelessness/>