*[Insert Letterhead]*

August XX, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair

Senate Appropriations Committee

State Capitol, Room 2206

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 865 (Quirk-Silva) – Valuing California’s Child Care Providers**

Dear Senator Portantino,

On behalf of *[Organization name]* we would like to communicate support for AB 865 to provide a stable reimbursement to child care providers based on enrollment and not attendance of a family. This legislation will also bring parity and value to subsidized providers on par with private pay providers.

California is currently in the midst of a child care crisis and has seen capacity for care reduced by nearly one-third in the past year. The economic and public health crisis induced by COVID-19 has accelerated closures of child care providers who were barely surviving even before the pandemic. According to the California Department of Social Services, a staggering 2,930 Family Child Care Homes and Centers in state permanently closed their doors in 2020. Thousands of working moms and dads lost access to child care.

Prior to the crisis, California’s child care providers who provided care to subsidized families were reimbursed strictly based on the attendance of a family. This policy in and of itself created a disincentive for providers to accept enrollment of a subsidized child. During COVID, Governor Newsom issued an executive order to stabilize providers and require reimbursement for the space held for a subsidized family regardless of attendance. This action was instrumental in reducing the exodus of providers and halting further closures.

Additionally, during COVID it became apparent that antiquated requirements for parents to manually sign forms or provide hard copies of letters needed change. Similarly, providers had to submit hard copies of attendance sheets and this created challenging punitive roadblocks and jeopardized reimbursements and eligibility. In the age of technology and smart phones, parents and providers should be enabled through technology to more seamlessly support reporting and programmatic requirements.

*(OPTIONAL INSERT OF SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION)*

California’s working families must have access to stable child care if our economy is ever to rebound. AB 865 supports the child care work force and reimburses them for holding a space for a child regardless of whether the child attends. AB 865 values child care providers as business owners and recognizes their work as an integral part of California’s economy.

Sincerely,

*Name*

*Title*

*Electronic Signature*