



Thursday, May 6, 2021

The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
California State Assembly  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: PAUSE for AB-22

Dear Assemblymember McCarty,

**We are asking you to hit “pause” on AB-22.**

The bill neglects to consider the needs of California children, families, and early educators. It will deliver less care for children, at lower quality and higher cost than California’s existing state preschool programs.

As currently written, the bill effectively pulls funding away from subsidized childcare for the families who depend upon it the most. These are the very families who have the least resources to find care and nutrition for their children. These low-income families, often single mothers, need full days of care all year long, so they can work and find work.

AB-22 threatens to disrupt low-income childrens’ 250 days of 6.5-10.5 hours of CSPP care and supplant it with “TK” at only 175 days a year and 3 hours a day.<sup>1</sup> Parents cannot work with only 3 hours of care, they cannot take the summer off from work, and they cannot afford summer camps.

Giving a family wraparound services at CSPP sites to fill the remainder of their child’s day has been proposed to fix this issue of limited TK hours. But adding services and busing 3 and 4-year-olds daily between two or three locations is developmentally inappropriate and will likely result in worse educational outcomes. Beyond that, it will be impossible to manage for many California families.

Talking dollars and sense, TK is expensive. At approximately \$1200 more per year per child than CSPP, TK today delivers significantly fewer services and much worse teacher-to-child ratios.<sup>1</sup> Investing in California’s existing CSPP and Alternative Payment systems will enable more children to access high-quality early education than TK. Right now, there are thousands of community-based childcare providers with capacity, sufficient hours, and the openness to welcome these children to their classrooms.

1. [Friedman-Krauss, A. H., Barnett, W. S., Garver, K. A., Hodges, K. S., Weisenfeld, G. G. & Gardiner, B. A. \(2021\). The State of Preschool 2020: State Preschool Yearbook. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.](#)

We are asking you to take a step back and consider the needs of California families and children. Consider the early educators that sustained care and education for our young children throughout the pandemic. Consider the needs of your community in Sacramento.

**Hit pause on the bill so we can collectively build something better for children, families, and early educators.**

Sincerely,

Dave Esbin

Executive Director

[Californians for Quality Early Learning \(CQEL\)](#)