



May 13, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
California State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

We the undersigned would like to communicate our support AB 865 to provide stable reimbursements based on the enrollment and not attendance of a family to all child care providers who accept vouchers. 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 family child care providers who provided subsidized parents on a varied work schedule with child care were reimbursed 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.

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.

Signed,

Bananas
California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA)
California Child Care Coordinators Association
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

Catalyst Community
Catalyst Family, Inc.
Child Action, Inc.
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Child Care Resource Center
Child Development Associates
Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc
Children Now
Children's Council San Francisco
Children's Home Society of California
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, Inc.
Community Child Care Council (4Cs) of Alameda County
Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County
Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County
Community Resources for Children
Connections for Children
Council for a Strong America
Crystal Stairs, Inc.
Del Norte Child Care Council

Early Care and Education Consortium

Early Care Educators of San Francisco
Family Child Care Association of San Francisco

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
Kai Ming Head Start
Low Income Investment Fund
Marin Child Care Council
Mission: Readiness
North Coast Opportunities
Northern Directors Group
Only Love Children's Center
Options for Learning
Parent Voices San Francisco
ReadyNation
San Francisco Child Care Planning & Advisory Council
San Francisco Early Care & Education Advocacy Coalition
Santa Barbara County Education Office
Sierra Nevada Children's Services
Siskiyou Child Care Council
Solano Family & Children's Services
Supportive Services, Inc.
True Sunshine Preschool Center
Valley Oak Children's Services
YMCA Childcare Resource Services
Wu Yee Children's Services