



May 13, 2021

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

RE: SUPPORT – AB 865 (Quirk-Silva): Child Care Services: Alternative Payment Programs

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

The Legislative Women's Caucus has voted to make Assemblymember Quirk-Silva's Assembly Bill 865 a top priority for the Caucus.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were roughly 40,000 family child care provider businesses. Since the pandemic, an estimated 5,500 family child care homes and 9,200 child care centers have closed in California. California's child care and early learning system is carried mainly on the backs of low-income Black and Brown women who are struggling more than ever to make ends meet. Our subsidized child care system further harms the fiscal health of these family child care providers by only allowing for reimbursement when a family actually shows up. It does not factor that a family child care provider must hold the slot for a child regardless of whether the child is in attendance or not. In the private sector, a payment for a child care slot is paid in full regardless of usage.

AB 865 would allow family child care providers and centers to be reimbursed for the full amount of the certified hours noted on a subsidized child care certificate and not on attendance. Further, it would allow the use of electronic means in order to best meet the needs of families and require direct deposit from the Controller to contractors.

During the pandemic, Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order to ensure family child care providers are reimbursed the amount on a child care certificate of an eligible family regardless of attendance. AB 865 would put the provisions of that Executive Order in statute thereby eliminating the sunset of previous similar statute SB 820 which is set to expire in June 2021. This important change will allow family child care providers to more accurately plan and budget and help secure their survival.

For these reasons, the Caucus urges your strong support on this important measure.

Sincerely,

Cristina Garcia, Chair
Assemblywoman, 58th District

Nancy Skinner, Vice Chair
State Senator, 9th District