



Assemblymember Lisa Calderon
 Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
 California State Capitol

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

Dear Assemblymember Calderon,

We the undersigned would like to communicate our support for AB 865 to provide a stable reimbursement to family 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 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 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 of San Francisco

Children's Council San Francisco

Children's Home Society of California

Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo

Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County

Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County (4Cs)

Community Resources for Children

Connections for Children

Council for 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

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

True Sunshine Preschool Center

Valley Oak Children's Services

Wu Yee Children's Services