*(Insert Letterhead)*

June XX, 2021

Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell

Chair, Assembly Education Committee

1020 N Street, Room 159

Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 393 – Valuing Migrant Childcare and Development Programs - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember O’Donnell,

On behalf of XXX, we write in support of Senate Bill 393. This bill would align the funding stream for the Migrant Childcare Alternative Payment (AP) program with other voucher-based childcare programs.

The Migrant AP program is truly unique – the only one of its kind in the state. Since 1999, it has served California’s migrant worker unique needs, providing free or low-cost childcare through vouchers that accommodate migratory work patterns. However, when the program was established the statute that outlined its funding stream did not reflect its true programmatic functions and costs.

Due to a variance in how migrant childcare is funded and how it provides access to childcare, monies earmarked specifically to support essential workers via vouchers could not be awarded to the migrant program during COVID-19. As a result, the program missed out on $400,000 that could have been used to support more field workers.

Agriculture is the backbone of our community – those who uproot their lives to provide the food we eat must have access to childcare to enable their essential work. California must do whatever it can to meet the needs of these workers and their children. SB 393 will update the law to help support the needs of migrant workers in times of a declared state of emergency and allow them to receive their fair share of emergency funding.

This is why XXX supports SB 393, and encourages all members of the committee to support this much needed legislation.

Sincerely,