June 3, 2014

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, Chair
Legislative Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA  95814

Dear Assemblymember Skinner,

Our children and state stand today at a critical crossroads. The policy and budget choices Californians make now will impact our collective futures for many years to come. The good news is that we have the real opportunity to choose a new path – one that builds on a clear research base and the pathway described by California’s Comprehensive Early Learning Plan1 indicating that our state’s best investment is our youngest children.

We have real, concrete choices in front of us in the early learning budget and policy proposals emerging from the California State Assembly and Senate. Our organizations – representing key labor, business, provider, early education groups, and First 5 – have spent significant time analyzing these and make the following strong recommendations. Our vision builds on the overarching principle that in order to create an early learning system that Californians can be proud of, we must take simultaneous, urgent steps forward in three fundamentally linked action areas: rates, slots, and quality. Focusing on any of these in isolation would be a critical mistake. We support funding the following within Proposition 98:

**Rates**
Bring the Regional Market Rate (RMR) to the 85th percentile of the 2010 RMR Survey with implementation during the budget year. Increase the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) by $100M (10% increase to General Child Care and State Preschool programs), and move to a 7.5% increase the following year. Increase the infant multiplier from 1.7 to 2 and the toddler multiplier from 1.4 to 1.7.

**Slots**
Implement the “California Pre-K Program” for all low-income four-year olds (~234,000 slots) and restore 40,000 child care slots (30,000 of which should be for infants and toddlers). Moving forward we urge a balanced approach between infant/toddler and preschool age groups.

**Quality**
To ensure young children in these programs receive the highest possible quality, invest $100M in early education workforce development systems. Associated workforce development efforts should take into consideration the highly diverse nature of California’s early education workforce.

---

1 State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care (SAC), http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ce/sacresources.asp
We additionally support investing $10M in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

The actions outlined above should be considered the first steps towards a comprehensive early learning plan for California. We stand ready to continue working with you to develop our next steps to build on this foundation in future years. Right now, let’s choose the right path together and support our children’s success. Through our choices today we impact each of their futures and, equally, the future wellbeing and prosperity of California and the nation.

CC: Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
    Senator Mark Leno, Vice Chair
    Senator Loni Hancock
    Senator Ricardo Lara
    Senator Jim Nielsen
    Assemblymember Richard Bloom
    Assemblymember Jeff Gorell
    Assemblymember Shirley Weber
List of Supporters (As of 5:00 PM, June 3, 2014):

1. A Plus
2. Abriendo Puertas – Opening Doors
3. Advancement Project
4. Alameda County Early Care & Education Planning Council
5. Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance
6. Alameda County Public Health Department
7. Alifano Technologies
8. All Pro Promotions
9. American Youth Rugby Union
10. Ann Martin Center
11. Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement (BAHIA, Inc.)
12. Bananas
13. Banning Police Activities League
14. Bay Area Council
15. Best Of The Bunch Childcare
16. Blue Skies for children
17. Bohbot & Riles, LLP
18. Boys & Girls Clubs of North San Mateo County
19. Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito
20. Brighter Beginnings
21. Busy Kidz
22. CA Black Health Network
23. California Alliance of African American Educators
24. California Child Care Coordinators Association
25. California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
26. California Children’s Academy
27. California Community Foundation
28. California Family Resource Association
29. California Food Policy Advocates
30. California School Based Health Alliance
31. California WIC Association
32. Cambridge Community Center
33. Campus Kids Connection
34. Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children
35. Center for Ecoliteracy
36. Center for Oral Health
37. Children Now
38. Chamber of Commerce Mountain View
39. Child Care Alliance Los Angeles
40. Child Care Planning Council County of San Bernardino
41. Child Care Planning Council San Luis Obispo County
42. Child Development Centers
43. Child Resource Center
44. Child Start, Inc.
45. Children’s Bureau
46. Children’s Council San Francisco
47. Children’s Defense Fund California
48. Children’s Network of Solano County
49. Children’s Nurturing Project
50. Civicorps
51. Clovis Family Literacy: Pinedale
52. Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
53. Community Child Care Council of Alameda County
54. Community Investment Strategies
55. Contra Costa Child Care Council
56. CORA
57. County of Alameda California
58. CSM Consulting
59. Darden Architects
60. Early Childhood Mental Health Program
61. Early Childhood Education Professional Development Club at Santa Monica College
62. Early Edge California
63. Early Education Equality
64. East Bay Children’s Law Office
65. East Bay Community Foundation
66. Eisner Pediatric & Family Medical Center
67. Emeryville Community Services Department
68. Every Neighborhood Partnership
69. Extended Child Care
70. Faith Lutheran
71. Faith Lutheran Church Riverside
72. Families in Good Health
73. Families In Schools
74. Family Connections
75. Family Day Care
76. Family Paths
77. Family Service Association
78. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California
79. First 5 Alameda County
80. First 5 Association of California
81. First 5 Butte County
82. First 5 California
83. First 5 Contra Costa
84. First 5 Del Norte
85. First 5 Fresno County
86. First 5 Kern County
87. First 5 LA
88. First 5 Lassen County
89. First 5 Mendocino
90. First 5 Plumas County
91. First 5 San Luis Obispo County
92. First 5 Santa Clara County
93. First 5 Santa Cruz
94. First 5 Siskiyou
95. First 5 Solano County
96. First 5 Sonoma County
97. First 5 Yolo
98. First Place for Youth
99. Focus Forward
100. Foster Care Alumni of America California Chapter
101. Fremont Family Resource Center
102. Fresno State Center California Children’s Institute
103. Friends Committee on Legislation of California
104. Full Court Press
105. Girls Inc.
106. Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, Inc.
107. Growing Up in Santa Cruz
108. Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce & Visitors’ Bureau
109. Half Moon Bay Brewing Co.
110. Harbour
111. Healthy Cities Tutoring
112. Help Me Grow Solano
113. Human Services Association
114. Inner City Struggle
115. InnVision Shelter Network
116. Institute for Maximum Human Potential
117. Jeffrey Scott Agency
118. JERICO, A Voice for Justice
119. Jewish Family and Community Services East Bay
120. Jump Start
121. Kaplan Early Learning Company
122. Kenneth Rainin Foundation
123. Kidango
124. Kidango Children's Fund of the Bay Area Educate of California
125. Kids' Own Wisdom
126. Krause Center for Innovation Foothill College
127. LA Urban League
128. LAPD Hollenbeck PAL
129. League of Women Voters of California
130. Lemonade Creative Consulting
131. Lincoln Child Center
132. Local Child Care Planning Council of Colusa County
133. Local Early Education Planning Council of Santa Clara County
134. Local Planning Council of Ventura County
135. Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
136. Loved Twice
137. Mar Vista Family Center
138. Mare Island Heritage Trust
139. Marin County School Volunteers
140. Marin Kids
141. Martinez Early Childhood Center, Inc.
142. MDC Consulting
Merced City Schools Youth
Mimi and Peter Haas Fund
Mini Pharmacy
Mission: Readiness
Mocktoberfest
Moms Rising
Mountain View Parent Nursery School
Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana
National Laboratory for Education Transformation
National Organization of Women California
Next Generation
Nuestra Casa
On The Capitol Doorstep
Optimal Solutions Consulting
Orange County Association for the Education of Young Children
Parent/Child/Adolescent/Translational Age Youth
Parent Institute for Quality Education
Parent Revolution
Partnership for Children & Youth
Pathways
PDI Surgery Center
Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
Peninsula Family Service
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte: Kids in Common
Pretend City Children’s Museum
Puente de la Costa Sur
Raineth Holdings, LP
Ready Nation America’s Edge
Rebekah Children’s Services
Riverside County Child Care Consortium
Rogers Family Foundation
Ruby’s Place
SAMCEDA
San Benito County Police Activities League
San Carlos Chamber of Commerce
San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council
San Mateo County Office of Education
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
SJUSD
SMALLIFY
Sonoma County Partnership for Children
Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers
Speak to Children
Special Discoveries
St. Elizabeth's Day Home
St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church San Jose
Supervisor Wilma Chan, Alameda County Board of Supervisors, District 3
Sweet Peas Preschool & Daycare
191. Temple Israel of Alameda
192. The Atlas Family Foundation
193. The Berkeley Baby Book Project
194. The City of Emeryville
195. The Super Foodies
196. The Women's Foundation of California
197. UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland
198. United Job Creation Council
199. United Way of the Bay Area
200. United Way Silicon Valley
201. Urban Strategies Council
202. Ventura County Association for the Education of Young Children
203. Violence Prevention Coalition Greater Los Angeles
204. Westside Infant-Family Network
205. ZERO TO THREE