June 24, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Assemblymember
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0063

RE: AB 641 (Rendon) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

On behalf of First 5 LA, I am writing to state our support for AB 641, which authorizes family child care providers to choose a provider organization to act as their exclusive representative on matters relating to benefits, grievances, and payment procedures relating to child care subsidy programs. The legislation would also establish a Family Child Care Parent Advisory Committee to advise and make recommendations to the Governor and the provider organization.

First 5 LA is a child advocacy and grantmaking organization created by California voters to invest Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues in health care, early education and child development programs for L.A. County children from the prenatal stage to age 5 and their families. In order to achieve our mission of ensuring children are ready for kindergarten, one of our policy goals is to help strengthen the prenatal to 5 workforce, including child care providers.

By allowing family child care providers to become full partners with the state in improving and stabilizing the provision of care, AB 641 will place California in a position to expand high quality child care programs to meet the growing needs of working families as the economy begins to recover. Current law does not allow home-based child care providers to work together to improve child care services, meaning that providers do not have the ability to collaborate with the state to implement common sense improvements to make better use of public child care dollars.

First 5 LA funds programs and projects that seek to improve the diversity, qualifications, quality of practice, retention and compensation of ECE providers, such as The ECE Career Development Policy Project and the Families, Friends & Neighbors (FFN) program.
We are grateful for your leadership on this issue, and hope you will consider First 5 LA a resource in your efforts to move the legislation forward. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Tessa Charnofsky, Government Affairs Manager, at TCharnofsky@First5LA.org.

Sincerely,

Kim Belahé
Executive Director

KB:rv

cc: Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee