



May 18, 2016

Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

The undersigned members of the Legislative Women's Caucus, and our legislative allies, remain fully committed to ensuring the State make an \$800 million investment in child care this year. Before beginning any restructuring, there must be a significant infusion of resources to stabilize the program. Our child care system cannot serve working families, educate our youngest learners, or adhere to the new minimum wage law, if it is not funded sufficiently.

The child care situation is dire in this state and needs action now. Child care costs are not just high; they're rising twice as fast as inflation. Families with employed mothers below the poverty level spend on average 36% of their income on child care; mothers who are at or above the poverty level spend an average of 22%. And of all the State's investments in programs to counteract the effects of poverty for workers and children over the last several years, less than 1.5% of it has been invested in child care.

Without enough subsidized child care in our state – parents cannot work.

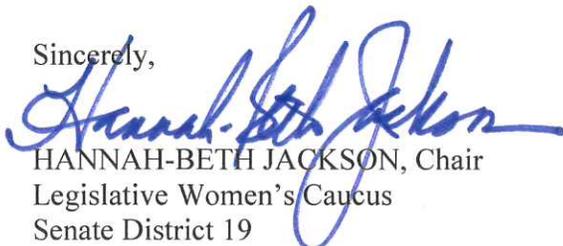
- Only 9% of children 0-2 have access to a licensed early childhood education center - only 2.4% in LA County.
- California is only meeting 18% of its child care needs.
- Over 300,000 eligible children are not able to enroll in child care programs.

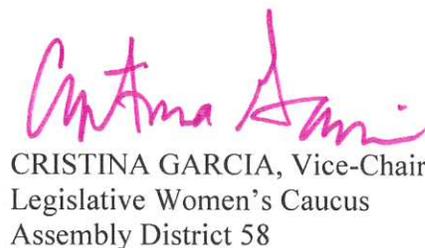
While we understand the need to curb unnecessary spending and continue down a path of fiscal prudence, we must invest in programs where outcomes will benefit our society and our economy. For every dollar devoted to high-quality early childhood education, society saves seven.

Members of the Legislative Women's Caucus and our allies are urging you to fill the gaps within the early care and education system. Specifically, we need to increase rates to reflect the current cost of doing business in California, while retaining adequate parental choice. To ensure continuity of care, we need 12-month eligibility and an update of the State Median Income to reflect our current economy. Finally, we need quality investments and consumer information to ensure that parents have access to valuable learning programs that meet their individualized needs.

Our economy will not grow without a more robust investment in child care and early learning. The science is clear on that and we are as well.

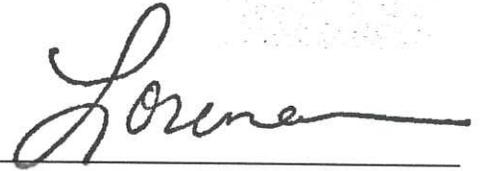
Sincerely,


HANNAH-BETH JACKSON, Chair
Legislative Women's Caucus
Senate District 19

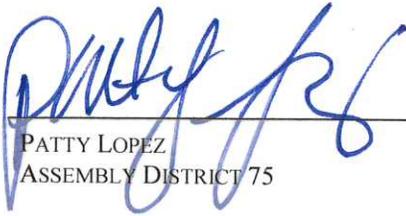

CRISTINA GARCIA, Vice-Chair
Legislative Women's Caucus
Assembly District 58



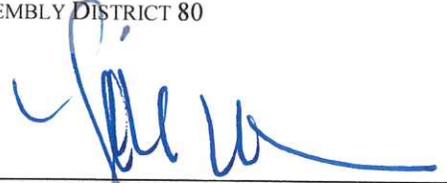
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SENATE DISTRICT 30



LORENA GONZALEZ
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 80



PATTY LOPEZ
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 75



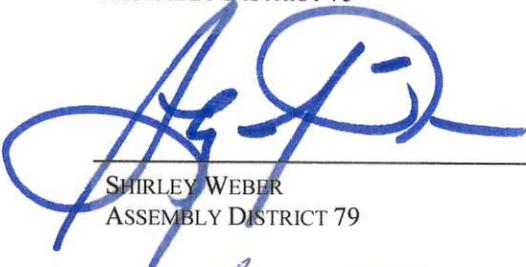
LOIS WOLK
SENATE DISTRICT 3



MARIE WALDRON
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 75



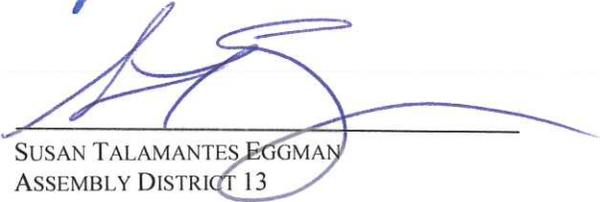
CONNIE M. LEYVA
SENATE DISTRICT 20



SHIRLEY WEBER
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 79



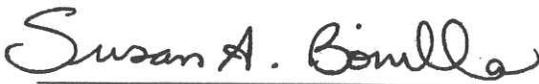
KRISTIN OLSEN
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 12



SUSAN TALAMANTES EGGMAN
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 13



AUTUMN BURKE
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 62



SUSAN BONILLA
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 14



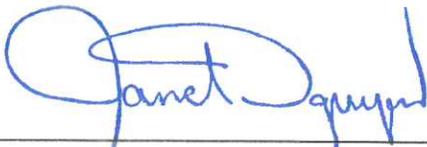
CATHARINE B. BAKER
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 16



CAROL LIU
SENATE DISTRICT 25



CHERYL BROWN
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 47

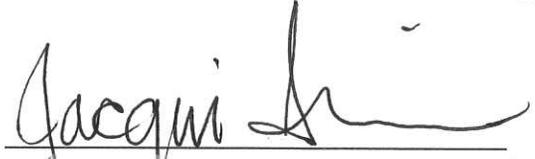


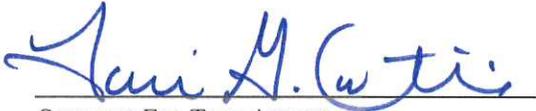
JANET NGUYEN
SENATE DISTRICT 34



NORA CAMPOS
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 27


LONI HANCOCK
SENATE DISTRICT 9


JACQUI IRWIN
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 44

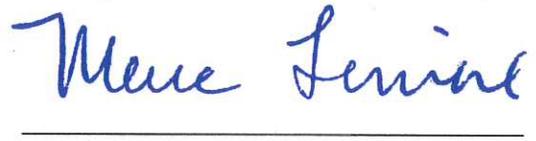

SPEAKER EM. TONI ATKINS
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 78


FRAN PAVLEY
SENATE DISTRICT 27


CATHLEEN GALGIANI
SENATE DISTRICT 5


LING-LING CHANG
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 55


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MARC LEVINE
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