



April 10, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

As Governor, we must commend your early and swift response to the challenges our state is facing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Through your strong leadership, California has demonstrated its ability to bring communities together and now we have now seen a divided nation become united. Your actions as Governor of California have undoubtedly saved lives. While we continue to navigate uncharted territory, we would like to bring some items to your immediate attention.

As you know, the Legislative Women's Caucus has, for decades, been at the forefront advocating for the state to adequately fund subsidized child care. We have long recognized that the child care workforce, as well as the vital services that they provide to families, are **essential** to the economic infrastructure of both the state and nation. The child care workforce allows parents to work in order to drive the economy forward, while ensuring that their children are in a safe, affordable and quality learning environment.

Your recent Executive Order allowing for the prioritization of child care for essential workers was a necessary and important step. We thank you for the newly \$100 million in child care funding provided today. However, we recognize that we cannot "meet the moment" without an appropriate and adequate funding source. The Legislative Women's Caucus is requesting an additional Executive Order for the immediate release of newly allocated Federal Child Care Development Block Grant money. Until federal dollars arrive, it is critical that California use an alternate source to immediately fund additional Alternative Payment vouchers for essential workers. Already appropriated 2019-2020 fiscal year one-time funds that remain unspent at the California Department of Education should also be used to provide more vouchers.

We also request that the hold-harmless 30 day payment provision for closed providers, even in the case of dual providers, be in place at least until the COVID-19 pandemic has resolved. This would protect the child care infrastructure and workforce.

Finally, we believe that the state should be looking at providing hazard pay to child care workers. They are providing an essential service to Californians while putting themselves and their families at risk of exposure to the virus.

California must take the necessary steps to ensure that those who need to work can indeed continue to work. We are thankful to our health care workers, emergency response workers, governmental staff, law enforcement, food and agriculture workers, and grocery workers, but also believe that the Golden State must provide more than our gratitude.

We look forward to working with you in ensuring that we take care of all Californians.

We are all in this together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Connie M. Leyva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Connie" and last name "Leyva" being more prominent than the middle initial "M".

Connie M. Leyva, Chair
Senator, 20th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monique Limón". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Monique" and last name "Limón" being more prominent than the middle initial "M".

Monique Limón, Vice Chair
Assemblymember, 37th District