



May 3, 2022

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore, California State Senate
1020 N Street, Room 5818
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Legislative Women's Caucus 2022-2023 Budget Request

Dear Governor Newsom, Speaker Rendon, Senate pro Tempore Atkins, & Budget Chairs:

Women are involved in all parts of society, but some issues affect women more than others, from the lack of access to child care to the absence of professional development opportunities. As if the ongoing pandemic and economic challenges were not enough, women are now having to face the fact that their reproductive rights are in jeopardy. The Legislative Women's Caucus' budget priorities for the 2022-23 budget year are **\$1.9 billion for child care, \$127 million for expanding and improving access to reproductive services, \$31.4 million to support workforce opportunities for women, and \$5 million to support the grants program of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.**

The Legislative Women's Caucus' top budget priority is **\$1.9 billion for child care funding.** Specifically, we are requesting to increase child care provider wages and compensation, fund health care and retirement plans for Child Care Providers United, fund the hold harmless policy, fund state preschool, waive family fees, and invest in child care workforce development grants and infrastructure.

It is widely accepted that child care is a critical need that not only supports parents' ability to work but is also essential to healthy child development. Yet child care providers, who are predominantly women and women of color, remain underpaid and undervalued. Our budget request is structured to address the underpayment of this essential workforce. The funds requested are necessary to pave the way for a strong economic recovery for California and a more equitable future for women, children, and families.

Additionally, the Caucus is requesting a one-time appropriation of **\$127 million and an ongoing appropriation of \$30 million for expanding and improving access to reproductive services.** The providers and nonprofit organizations that patients rely on are straining to simultaneously recover from the public health emergency, adjust to rising costs,

and expand access to abortion. If California is going to lead in reproductive health, rights, and justice, additional resources are needed. Specifically, funds requested include one-time investments of \$12 million for the Reproductive Health Pilot Program, \$40 million for the California Reproductive Health Scholars Corps, \$20 million for the California Reproductive Health Equity Program, \$20 million one-time for direct practical support, infrastructure, and centralized information, and \$20 million one-time for the Abortion Care Access Pilot Program in Los Angeles. It also includes a request for ongoing funding in the amount of \$15 million for limited equity and infrastructure payment for abortion care in Medi-Cal and \$15 million for the Reproductive Justice and Freedom Fund.

Lastly, the Caucus is requesting a one-time appropriation of **\$31.4 million and an ongoing appropriation of \$4 million to support women's return to the workforce and workforce development**, as well as a **\$5 million one-time appropriation to support the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls**. The workforce related funds include \$8.4 million one-time and \$4 million in ongoing funds to ensure 90% paid family leave wage replacement for low-wage workers, \$8 million in one-time funds to support Women's Small Business Centers, and \$15 million in ongoing funds to establish a Women in the Trades office at the CA Department of Industrial Relations.

Many female-dominated job categories will not return to pre-pandemic levels, forcing many to seek new fields of employment. Without employment retraining and job-placement services, women will be undermined in their re-entry to the workforce, as will the economic security of their families and their communities.

Significant investments are needed to prevent women from falling further behind. California's strong economic recovery and an equitable future for women are at stake. The Legislative Women's Caucus stands united in its commitment to securing a substantial investment that supports the advancement of all women.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Cristina Garcia, Chair
Assemblywoman, 58th District

CC: Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Chair of Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair of Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
Honorable John Laird, Chair, Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee #1
Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee #3