



May 17, 2017

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

Dear Governor Brown:

We thank you for keeping your promise to child care providers with the release of your May Revision. Continuing with your promise to increase provider rates will modernize earnings for those who care for our earliest learners.

The Legislative Women's Caucus has once again continued its promise to child care growth in the 2017-18 budget, and we ask you to partner with us. We are asking for an additional \$500 million apportioned for child care slots.

With the additional \$500 million, child care funding will finally be restored to levels last seen in 2008. Even with the gains we have recently made, California is still lagging behind the needs identified more than a decade ago, a period that has seen drastic, long-lasting cuts to a system that has been chronically underfunded and underappreciated. As referenced in previous letters, it is estimated that six out of seven children eligible for subsidized child care in California did not receive services from state programs, and the estimated number of children eligible for subsidized child care is 1,479,000.^[1] The State of California served 218,000 children in subsidized child care last year, which accounts for less than 15 percent of the need.

Though economic recovery in California is positive, the need for child care continues to grow. We believe the \$500 million requested should be applied to general child care slots and Alternative Payment slots. When parents cannot find or afford the child care that fits their needs, parents cannot work, children miss opportunities to learn, and the achievement gap begins.

We urge you to keep California working and children learning.

Sincerely,

Cristina Garcia, Chair
Legislative Women's Caucus
Assembly District 58

Connie M. Leyva, Vice-Chair
Legislative Women's Caucus
Senate District 20

^[1] <http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/1-2-million-california-children-eligible-subsidized-child-care-not-receive-services-state-programs-2015/>