



April 2, 2019

Honorable Richard D. Roth, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee #1 on Education  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento CA 95814

Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Education  
State Capitol, Room 2136  
Sacramento CA 95814

### **LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS 2019-20 BUDGET REQUEST**

Dear Senator Roth and Assemblymember McCarty:

While issues prioritized in the California State Budget have changed over the years, one thing has remained constant. For decades, the Legislative Women's Caucus has remained steadfast in its commitment to expand access to subsidized child care for California's families and strengthen the framework for a workforce that has largely been ignored.

While boosting funding for child care facilities is important, the Caucus believes additional access to child care and workforce development must be provided. Incremental investments have been made in recent years, although most have been targeted toward the California State Preschool Program. While an important investment, it is also crucial that we provide the supports needed for our most vulnerable populations. Low- and moderate-income families which often work non-traditional hours are already struggling to afford the basics.

In 2017, just 1 in 9 children eligible for subsidized child care in California received services. In order to increase access to child care, the Caucus ultimately believes we must invest in the workforce for providers to stay afloat and serve more children.

Specifically:

We must ensure that families do not experience a break in child care services due to a transition between the three stages of child care by streamlining CalWORKs Stage 1 child care eligibility rules. Continuity of care creates the stable conditions children need for healthy development and preparing them for lifelong success, inside and outside of the classroom.

Quality child care is critical to a child's development and lifelong well-being. The Caucus believes that creating guidelines for Early Care and Education (ECE) professional development is critical to strengthen, recruit and retain the ECE workforce and stay consistent in how available funds are applied.

Lastly, California has a bifurcated system of reimbursement rates for early learning services which complicates efforts to fund and deliver high-quality ECE programs that meet the

developmental needs of all children. The current structure and overall lack of funding limit California's ability to increase teacher compensation, adequately resource ECE programs, and incentivize quality improvement efforts, ultimately limiting access and forcing many child care providers out of business. We believe now is the time to establish a single regionalized state reimbursement rate system.

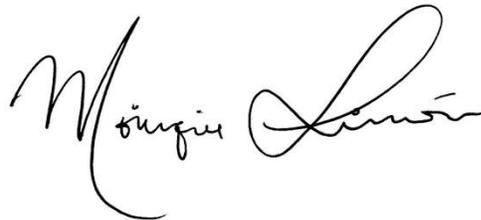
We must work together recognizing we cannot ignore the needs of this important workforce, as well as the needs of working families and our youngest learners who will ultimately become our next generation of leaders.

The Caucus reiterates our strong commitment to securing a substantial investment in child care in next year's budget.

Sincerely,



Connie M. Leyva, Chair  
State Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> District



Monique Limón, Vice Chair  
Assemblymember, 37<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Honorable Toni G. Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore  
Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly  
Honorable Holly J. Mitchell, Senate Budget Committee Chair  
Honorable Phil Ting, Assembly Budget Committee Chair