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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Website: Stand for Children Day 2026](https://www.parentvoices.org/stand-for-children-day-2026)

Parents, Kids, and Child Care Providers Urge Lawmakers and Governor to Fund 200,000 Slots Promise, Amid Final Leg of State Budget Season

SACRAMENTO, CA—As Governor Newsom releases his final revise of the state budget, nearly 500 parents, children, and child care providers will rally at the State Capitol for Parent Voices CA's 30th annual Stand for Children Day on May 12, 2026, warning that California is still 77,000 child care spaces short of prior commitments. Families say the gap pushes them to the brink and call on lawmakers to fund child care for all by closing corporate tax loopholes.

The rally will feature speakers from Child Care Providers UNITED and SEIU, along with remarks from Assemblymember Damon Connolly and Assemblymember Sade Elhawary. Parent Voices will also be honored with its pearl anniversary recognition, presented on behalf of Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón and California Legislative Women's Caucus Chair Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.

Parent Voices Los Angeles Parent Leader Marilynda Bustamante is a mother of 2-year-old Serenity. Marilynda is a CalWORKs success story. This month, she went from homelessness to walking the stage at USC to earn her master's in social work. Marilynda shares her story to ensure the governor keeps his promise because she knows what it's like not having access to child care.

“When you're in moments like that, it's hard to imagine things getting better and it's hard to envision a brighter future,” said Marilynda. **“Hearing about child care access gave me the strength to take a step forward. “Child care is the reason my daughter has a future and why I do too. Every one of those 77,000 missing slots is a child who deserves the same chance.”**

Californians are struggling to pay the bills: rent, medical bills, groceries, child care, and more. Working people have reached a breaking point, and the federal administration

has made it worse by passing cuts to services everyday people need so they could hand out corporate welfare with hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks. Right now, the median Californian pays \$2,000 in state income taxes. Meanwhile, nearly half of all profitable corporations pay the minimum: \$800. It's time for a change. Parent Voices CA calls on lawmakers to:

- Fund the remaining 77,000 promised child care spaces
- Pass AB 1981 (Aguiar-Curry) to ensure providers are paid the true cost of care
- Pass AB 1790 (Connolly) to close the “Water’s Edge” corporate tax loophole and invest billions into child care and other essential services

California Senate Leader Pro Tempore Monique Limón will present a Senate Certificate of Recognition to honor Parent Voices CA on its 30th annual Stand for Children Day event. She is a longtime PVCA supporter. **“Access to affordable child care is essential to making sure parents can provide for their families without compromising the safety and well-being of their children,”** said Senate Pro Tem Limón. **“As a mother myself, I understand the challenges many working parents face when it comes to raising their kids while navigating early education. Parent Voices California has been instrumental in making sure our state continues to invest in programs that give parents high-quality childcare.”**

Assemblymember Damon Connolly is one of 12 lawmakers who signed the Parent Voices Action pledge and is the author of AB 1790, which aims to close the “Water’s Edge” tax loophole. He will join Parent Voices on Stand for Children Day as a featured speaker. **“By closing the Water’s Edge tax loophole, AB 1790 offers a path forward to avoid cuts to critical services by simply making the world’s wealthiest corporations pay their fair share,”** said Asm. Connolly (D–San Rafael). **“This bill is estimated to generate \$3–4 billion in revenue, which we can reinvest into vital statewide priorities such as healthcare and child care.”**

According to publicly available budget analyses, the governor's current proposal does not include new investments toward the 200,000 additional child care spaces promised in earlier agreements, leaving the state 77,000 spaces short. At the same time, nearly two million children qualify for subsidized care, yet only about 16% are currently enrolled, highlighting a significant gap between need and available support.

“Parent Voices CA rejects the war machine that kills and traumatizes children abroad while neglecting children here at home,” said Mary Ignatius, Executive Director of Parent Voices CA. **“State lawmakers should abandon scarcity policies and fulfill their promise to fund child care for all families by closing the ‘water’s edge’ tax loophole, which corporate giants use to avoid paying their fair share. Those revenues should be invested where they belong: early education for our children. We must choose children, not billionaires.”**

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2026 STAND FOR CHILDREN DAY SCHEDULE

WHO: 500 Parent Leaders, Child Care Providers, Elected Officials

WHEN: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 10:00 AM

WHERE: California State Capitol
1315 10th St., West Steps
Sacramento, CA 95814

WHAT: Parent Voices California will rally and march for its 30th annual Stand for Children Day to advocate for child care justice. Parent Voices local chapters from across eight counties will meet with their local elected officials at the State Capitol to make their voices heard. This event is the California action to coincide with the 5th annual National Day Without Child Care.

WHY: Stand for Children Day: To demand elected leaders choose kids, not billionaires, amid the final leg of the California state budget season.

VISUALS / MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES: Families with young children and strollers arriving and participating. Parent leaders sharing compelling personal stories about the impact on their families. State lawmakers speak alongside impacted parents. PVCA will receive awards of recognition from the California Legislative Women's Caucus and Senate Leader Pro Tempore Monique Limón.

RUN OF SHOW:

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM | Rally

10:15 - 10:18 MC Intro and Roll Call (California Legislative Women's Caucus Chair Asm. Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Asm. Sade Elhawary, MC: Itzel Perez, PV San Francisco)

10:18 - 10:21 Parent Story: Child Care (Marilynda Bustamante, PV Los Angeles)

10:21 - 10:24 Song Performance (June Ma, PV Contra Costa)

10:24 - 10:28 Provider Story (Roxana Flores CCPU/SEIU Local 521)

10:28 - 10:32 Parent Story: Unrig the System (Keelah Moore, PV Oakland)

10:32 - 10:40 Elected Officials: Asm. Damon Connolly. Award presentations from the Senate Pro Tem Monique Limón's Office

10:40 - 10:42: Youth Lead Chants

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM | March

11:15 AM – 11:45 AM | Lunch

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Legislative Visits & Family Activities

Parent Voices is a parent-led grassroots organization fighting to make quality child care accessible and affordable for all families. There are eight local chapters across California, including Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Sonoma.