



AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING: April 23, 2015
ACTION: X
INFORMATION: _____

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Legislative Advisory Committee (Committee) recommended approval of the 2015 State Children’s Policy Agenda on March 18, 2015 (see Attachment A), to reflect Commissioner comments at the January meeting, and stakeholder feedback provided prior to the March Committee meeting. This policy agenda was used to analyze all state legislation introduced to date, and the Committee recommended support positions for the following state legislation, consistent with the policy agenda:

CHILD HEALTH

- SB 203 (Monning) – Sugar-sweetened beverages: safety warnings: SUPPORT
- AB 608 (Gordan) – CalFresh: School Meals: SUPPORT
- AB 1240 (Bonta) – Free and Reduced Price Meals: Breakfast: SUPPORT

EARLY LEARNING

- AB 47 (McCarty) – State Preschool Program: Report: SUPPORT
- AB 74 (Calderon) – Care facilities; regulatory visits: SUPPORT
- AB 427 (Weber) – Early Education Eligibility for Military Families: SUPPORT
- AB 598 (Rendon) – Family Child Care Home Education Networks: SUPPORT
- AB 713 (Weber) – Mandatory Kindergarten: SUPPORT
- AB 833 (Bonta) – Early Childhood Education: SUPPORT
- SB 792 (Mendoza) – Day Care Facilities: Immunizations: SUPPORT

STRONG FAMILIES

- AB 908 (Gomez) – Paid Family Leave Act: SUPPORT

In addition, on April 8, 2015, the Committee recommended approval on a state budget position letter regarding early learning and the Education Omnibus Trailer bill (see Attachment C), which was approved by the Executive Director. Consistent with this budget letter, staff presented at the April 14, 2015, Assembly Joint Budget Subcommittee hearing on child care, and the April 16, 2015, Senate Joint Budget Subcommittee hearing on child care.

All legislation and budget positions recommended by the Committee were adopted by the Executive Director and will be tracked by staff for public letters and public testimony in legislative hearings consistent with the Commission position.

Attachment B is a list of all state legislation, introduced and amended by April 7, 2015, that matched the policy agenda. Bills listed as “Level 1” are legislation determined by staff to be consistent with the policy agenda and requiring Committee consideration for an active position. Those bills listed as a Level 1 and not yet considered by the Committee for an active position will be discussed at a future Committee meeting. Bills listed as a Level 2 may be of interest to the Commission and will be tracked by staff in case future amendments warrant Commission consideration for an active position. All legislation that is consistent with the policy agenda, but considered a “spot bill” and therefore ineligible for a hearing, are listed as a Level 2 until future amendments warrant Commission consideration for an active position.

In addition to the approved “support” positions listed on the previous page, the Committee has discussed the large number of tobacco taxation and cessation bills introduced this year, and provided general direction to staff to analyze all tobacco taxation and cessation legislation, and recommend active positions for all legislation intended to decrease tobacco consumption and that is supported by other tobacco cessation groups. Formal positions consistent with this direction will be discussed at a future Committee meeting.

Two general legislative topics also have been discussed by the Committee, and recommended for general Commission discussion and direction. Four pieces of legislation have been introduced to date that restrict or regulate electronic cigarettes and/or marijuana. Due to the Commission’s prior direction to staff that revenue possibilities from the taxation and/or regulation of electronic cigarettes and marijuana be explored, the Committee is requesting the Commission discuss how to approach positions on legislation that would regulate or tax electronic cigarettes and marijuana.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission confirm the Legislative Advisory Committee’s process for reviewing and recommending state legislative and budget positions between Commission meetings for approval by the Commission’s Executive Director, as required by the state legislative schedule.

The Legislative Advisory Committee requests direction from the Commission on how to approach state legislation intended to regulate electronic cigarettes and marijuana.

Attachments

- A. 2015 State Children’s Policy Agenda
- B. Legislative Bills of Interest
- C. State Budget Position Letter on Early Learning
- D. AB 74 (Calderon) Letter of Support



Vision: California's children receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

2015 CHILDREN'S STATE POLICY AGENDA

Advocate for a comprehensive, integrated, culturally competent, and coordinated system for California's children prenatal through age 5 and their families that optimizes early childhood development.

CHILD HEALTH
Ensure coordination across the health care access system to ensure access for every pregnant mother and child ages 0 to 5 with affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage.
Improve parent and young children's knowledge about and access to healthy foods and physical activity, including support for state and/or local taxes on sweetened beverages and/or unhealthy foods.
Support and promote universal developmental screenings, assessment, referral, and treatment.
EARLY LEARNING
Expand access to quality early care and education programs for children ages 0 to 3.
Support implementation of high-quality universal preschool access for all low-income four-year-old children, and high-quality transitional kindergarten and kindergarten state-wide.
Support a high-quality early learning workforce through strengthened qualifications, compensation, stability, diversity, and robust professional development systems.
Promote statewide access to and participation in successful Quality Rating and Improvement Systems.
STRONG AND ENGAGED FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
Support evidence-based parent education and engagement, including new parent engagement on child brain development.
Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other community hubs for integrated services for children and families.
Increase supports for breastfeeding, family leave, and baby-friendly policies in all settings.
Expand voluntary home visit programs.
REVENUE
Promote inclusion of supports and services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families in existing and new revenue policy discussions.
Promote regulation of tobacco-related products, including electronic cigarettes.



LEGISLATIVE BILLS OF INTEREST
April 14, 2015

CHILD HEALTH

AB 608 (Gordon) CalFresh: School Meals

Current Text: Introduced: 2/24/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 3/9/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/14/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: Current law requires a county welfare department to compile a list of emergency food providers and make that list available upon request. This bill would instead require a county human services agency to compile a list of emergency and supplemental food assistance providers, as specified. The bill would also require a county human services agency to inform households applying for CalFresh that if the household is certified for CalFresh, specified children in the household are income-eligible for the WIC Program and all children in the household are directly certified for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program without further application.

AB 766 (Ridley-Thomas) Public School Health Center Support Program

Current Text: Introduced: 2/25/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/12/2015-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/21/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), in cooperation with the California Department of Education, to establish a Public School Health Center Support Program to perform specified functions relating to the establishment, retention, or expansion of school health centers in California, giving preference for grant funding to schools in areas designated as federally medically underserved areas or in areas with medically underserved populations, or schools with a high percentage of low-income and uninsured children and youth. This bill would require DPH to also give preference to schools with a high percentage of children and youth who receive free or low-cost health coverage through Medi-Cal or Covered California.

AB 1117 (Garcia) Medi-Cal: Vaccination Rates

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 4/06/2015-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/21/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish and administer the California Childhood Immunization Quality Improvement Fund program to improve childhood immunization rates, and would require DHCS to submit an application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a waiver to implement a 5-year demonstration project to implement the program.

CHILD HEALTH (Continued)

AB 1240 (Bonta) Pupil Nutrition: Free or Reduced-Price Meals: Breakfast

Current Text: Amended: 4/09/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/13/2015-A. EDUCATION

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/22/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126

Summary: This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to the federal School Breakfast Program. The bill, from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, would require each school district or county office of education maintaining any kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12 to make a nutritionally adequate breakfast available for all of the pupils in a school, when at least 40% of the pupils enrolled at the school are needy children. On and after July 1, 2017, these requirements would apply only to schools where at least 40%, but less than 60%, of the pupils enrolled in that school are needy children. The bill, from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, with respect to schools where at least 60% of the pupils enrolled at the school are needy children, additionally would require these nutritionally adequate breakfasts to be available to pupils after instruction has begun for the school day. On and after July 1, 2018, these requirements would apply only to schools where at least 60%, but less than 80%, of the pupils enrolled in that school are needy children. The bill, on and after July 1, 2018, with respect to schools where at least 80% of the pupils enrolled at the school are needy children, would additionally require these nutritionally adequate breakfasts to be available to pupils, at no cost to the pupil, after instruction has begun for the school day.

AB 1357 (Bloom) Children and Family Health Promotion Program

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/06/2015-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/21/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: This bill would establish the Children and Family Health Promotion Program in the Department of Public Health. The bill would require the program to consist of a competitive grant process in which grants are awarded by the department to counties, cities, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, and licensed clinics that seek to invest in childhood obesity and diabetes prevention activities and oral health programs. The bill would authorize the department to award a grant to any entity that will use the grant to support programs that use educational, environmental, policy, and other public health approaches to achieve specified goals. The bill would make legislative findings and declarations relating to the consumption of sweetened beverages, childhood obesity, and dental disease.

CHILD HEALTH (Continued)

AB 1396 (Bonta) Medi-Cal

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/26/2015-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/21/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: Current federal law requires that a state plan for medical assistance provide methods and procedures relating to the utilization of, and the payment for, care and services available under the plan as may be necessary to assure that payments are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and are sufficient to enlist enough providers so that care and services are available under the plan at least to the extent that care and services are available to the general population in the geographic area. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to align state law with federal law, as specified above, and to require an independent, third party to establish standardized metrics on access to care and quality of care, and to assess services using those metrics.

Notes: AB 1396 is the compliment bill to SB 591, and would earmark a portion of the new tax to be used in expanding treatment services for Medi-Cal patients with tobacco-related diseases and other illnesses.

SB 123 (Liu) Superintendent of Public Instruction: Report: School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities Program

Current Text: Amended: 4/06/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/09/2015-S. EDUCATION

Calendar: 4/22/2015 9:00 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 4203

Summary: This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to review and prepare specific recommendations relative to the administration and oversight of the School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities program. The bill would require the Superintendent to submit a report containing the specific recommendations to the Legislature and Governor by July 1, 2016, and would require the report to include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of specified entities, administrative structures, and information.

SB 203 (Monning) Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: Safety Warnings

Current Text: Amended: 4/06/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/06/2015-S. HEALTH

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/22/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4203

Summary: This bill would establish the Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Safety Warning Act, which would prohibit a person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale a sugar-sweetened beverage in a sealed beverage container, or a multipack of sugar-sweetened beverages, in this state unless the beverage container or multipack bears a safety warning, as prescribed. The bill also would require every person who owns, leases, or otherwise legally controls the premises where a vending machine or beverage dispensing machine is located, or where a sugar-sweetened beverage is sold in an unsealed container to place a specified safety warning in certain locations, including on the exterior of any vending machine that includes a sugar-sweetened beverage for sale.

CHILD HEALTH (Continued)

SB 277 (Pan) Public Health: Vaccinations

Current Text: Amended: 4/09/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 4/09/2015-S. EDUCATION

Calendar: 4/15/2015 9:00 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 4203

Summary: The governing authority of a school or other institution is prohibited from unconditionally admitting any person as a pupil of any public or private elementary or secondary school, child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, unless prior to his or her admission he or she has been fully immunized against various diseases, including measles, mumps, and pertussis, subject to any specific age criteria. Current law authorizes an exemption from those provisions for medical reasons or because of personal beliefs. This bill would eliminate the exemption from immunization based upon personal beliefs. This bill would except a home-based private school from the prohibition described above of all of the school's pupils are residents of the household or are members of a single family. The bill would narrow the authorization for temporary exclusion to make it applicable only to a child whose documentary proof of immunization status does not show proof of immunization against one of the diseases described above.

SB 708 (Mendoza) Pupil Nutrition: Free or Reduced-Price Meals: Online Applications

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 3/19/2015-S. EDUCATION

Calendar: 4/22/2015 9:00 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 4203

Summary: This bill would authorize the governing boards of school districts and county superintendents of schools to make applications for free or reduced-price meals electronically available online. The bill would specify requirements that would have to be met by the governing boards of school districts and county superintendents of schools who choose to provide access to an online application under this bill.

SB 792 (Mendoza) Day Care Facilities: Immunizations

Current Text: Introduced: 4/07/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 4/07/2015-S. HEALTH

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/15/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4203

Summary: This bill, commencing September 1, 2016, would prohibit a day care center or a family day care home from employing any person who has not been immunized in accordance with the schedule for routine adult immunizations, prescribed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The bill would specify circumstances under which a person would be exempt from the immunization requirement, based on medical safety and current immunity. The bill would make conforming changes to provisions that set forth qualifications for day care center teachers and applicants for licensure as a family day care center.

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE

AB 47 (McCarty) State Preschool Program: Report

Current Text: Introduced: 12/1/2014 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 1/22/2015-A. EDUCATION

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/29/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Education to report to the Legislature and Department of Finance, by June 1, 2016, a plan for expanding the state preschool program to all eligible low-income children who do not have access to one year of state preschool or transitional kindergarten. The bill would require the report to contain an analysis of the need for new facilities for the state preschool program in order to provide access to all eligible children.

AB 74 (Calderon) Care Facilities: Regulatory Visits

Current Text: Amended: 4/07/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/08/2015-A. AGING & LONG TERM CARE

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/21/2015 2:00 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 127

Summary: This bill would make community and residential care facilities, child day care centers, and family day care homes subject to an annual unannounced visit by the Department of Social Services (DSS) on and after July 1, 2018. The bill would revise the provisions requiring DSS to conduct annual unannounced visits to no less than 20 percent of the facilities by instead requiring DSS to conduct annual unannounced visits to no less than 30 percent of facilities on or before July 1, 2015, and no less than 20 percent of those facilities on or before July 1, 2016, and no less than 40 percent of those facilities on or before July 1, 2017. The bill would also delete the provisions requiring an unannounced visit at least once every 5 years.

AB 188 (Garcia) Child Care: Alternative Payment Providers: Reimbursement Rates: Eligibility Requirements

Level 2 Current Text: Introduced: 1/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Location: 3/25/2015-A. APPROPRIATIONS

Summary: Current law requires reimbursement for alternative payment programs to include the cost of child care paid to child care providers plus the administrative and support services costs of the alternative payment program, and limits the total cost for administration and support services to an amount not to exceed 17.5 percent of the total contract amount. This bill would also require alternative payment programs to be reimbursed for making eligibility determinations at a rate of 3 percent of the total contract amount.

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE (Continued)

AB 233 (Lopez) Child Care and Development Services: Alternative Payment Programs: Reimbursement Rates

Level 2 Current Text: Amended: 4/09/2015 [pdf](#)

Location: 4/13/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

Calendar: 4/14/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: The Child Care and Development Services Act requires the California Department of Education to contract with local contracting agencies for alternative payment programs that are intended to allow for maximum parental choice in child care. The act, to provide maximum parental choice, authorizes alternative payment programs to include certain things, including a subsidy that follows the family from one provider to another, as provided. This bill would, to provide maximum parental choice and access, instead require alternative payment programs to include these certain things, and to also include an eligibility determination process of every 12 months. The bill would authorize funds appropriated for the act to also be used to allow for maximum parental access. The bill also would require that a family enrolled in a state or federally funded child care and development program to be considered eligible for services for 12 months from the time of initial, or annual, eligibility determination.

AB 233 (Lopez) Child Care and Development Services: Alternative Payment Programs: Reimbursement Rates

Level 2 Current Text: Introduced: 2/04/2015 [pdf](#)

Location: 2/17/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

Calendar: 4/14/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: The Child Care and Development Services Act requires the California Department of Education to contract with local contracting agencies for alternative payment programs that are intended to allow for maximum parental choice in child care. The act, to provide maximum parental choice, authorizes alternative payment programs to include certain things, including a subsidy that follows the family from one provider to another, as provided. This bill would, to provide maximum parental choice and access, authorize alternative payment programs to also include an eligibility determination process of not less than once every 12 months.

AB 427 (Weber) Early Primary Programs: Child Care Services: Eligibility: Military Families

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/06/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/28/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: This bill would exclude from income the amount of the basic allowance for housing provided to an individual who is on federal active duty, state active duty, active duty for special work, or Active Guard and Reserve duty in the military that is equal to the lowest rate of the allowance for the military housing area in which the individual resides for purposes of determining eligibility for child care and development services.

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE (Continued)

AB 589 (Lopez) Online Child Care Job Posting Services: Consumer Education

Current Text: Introduced: 2/24/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/09/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

Summary: This bill would require an online child care job posting service to include specified information regarding each child care provider on the Internet website profile or page that lists child care provider information, including a description of the trustline registry and the toll-free telephone number and the link to the Internet website for the registry, a description of the availability of free child care referrals in every county, and, if the service provides background checks, an easy-to-understand overview of what is included in the background check and what is not included.

AB 598 (Rendon) Child Care: Family Child Care Home Education Networks

Current Text: Introduced: 2/24/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 3/09/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/28/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: Current law requires each family child care home education network to assess the educational quality of the program offered in each family child care home in the network. This bill would require that tools used to make these assessments be appropriate to family child care home settings.

AB 713 (Weber) Elementary Education: Kindergarten

Current Text: 3/23/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/09/2015-A. APPROPRIATIONS

SUPPORT Summary: This bill, beginning with the 2017-18 school year, would require a child to have completed one year of kindergarten before he or she may be admitted to the first grade, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

AB 762 (Mullin) Day Care Centers: Integrated Licensing

Current Text: Amended: 4/08/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 4/09/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

Calendar: 4/14/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: This bill would require the department to adopt regulations, on or before January 1, 2018, to develop and implement a single integrated license for a day care center serving children from birth to kindergarten. The bill would require the regulations to include age-appropriate transition times, as specified, and a requirement that an integrated license list the age groups of children being served at the day care center. The bill would require, between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2018, an existing day care center license to be converted to a single integrated child care license upon annual renewal of the license, and would require that until a day care center has the new integrated license, standards for inspection of a day care center to be based on the current license. The bill would also require a day care center with a toddler component to extend the toddler component to serve children 18 months to 3 years, inclusive, years of age and would repeal the provisions relating to a toddler program component on January 1, 2018.

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE (Continued)

AB 765 (Ridley-Thomas) Child Care and Development: Reimbursement Rates

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/06/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

Calendar: 4/28/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: This bill would provide that the child care standard reimbursement rate is not intended to fund mandated costs imposed upon child development programs due to actions of law relating to minimum wage requirements, health insurance requirements, new or increased fees, new or expanded program requirements, or other cost increases due to legislative action. The bill would require the standard reimbursement rate to be raised as needed to provide a living wage, reasonable health insurance, and retirement benefits for employees, to support the recruitment and retention of skilled and trained teachers, to support the financial stability of programs and educational quality, and to achieve gender pay equity. The bill would define cost-of-living adjustment to be, among other things, at least equal to the amount of the inflation adjustments given to K-12 education programs.

AB 833 (Bonta) Early Childhood Education

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/06/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

SUPPORT Calendar: 4/28/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on or before an unspecified date, to establish a statewide centralized eligibility list to consolidate child care waiting lists and a statewide quality rating and improvement system to improve the quality of early learning.

AB 982 (Eggman) Child Care and Development: Eligibility: Priority: Homeless Children

Current Text: Introduced: 2/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/19/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

Calendar: 4/14/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: Current law provides that it is the intent of the Legislature in providing child development programs the Superintendent of Public Instruction give priority to children of families that qualify for public assistance and other low-income and disadvantaged families. This bill would also include homeless families as part of the intended priority for child development programs.

AB 1058 (Baker) Pupil Safety: Child Abuse Prevention: Training

Current Text: Introduced: 2/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 4/09/2015-A. APPROPRIATIONS

Summary: This bill would require the California Department of Education to establish guidelines and best practices regarding child abuse prevention, and to post on its Internet website links to existing training resources. The bill would also encourage local educational agencies, and state special schools and diagnostic centers to participate in child abuse prevention training and to require school employees to receive training in child abuse prevention at least once every 3 years.

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE (Continued)

AB 1114 (Bonilla) Kindergarten Evaluation

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 2/27/2015-A. PRINT

Summary: Current law provides that school districts offering kindergarten may maintain kindergarten classes at different schoolsites for different lengths of time. Current law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide the Legislature with an evaluation of kindergarten program implementation in the state, including part-day and full-day kindergarten programs. Current law requires this provision to become inoperative on July 1, 2017. This bill would change the inoperative date to July 15, 2017.

AB 1133 (Achadjian) School-Based Early Mental Health Intervention and Prevention Services Support Program

Level 2 Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Location: 4/09/2015-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/21/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: The School-based Early Mental Health Intervention and Prevention Services for Children Act of 1991 authorizes the Director of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to provide matching grants to local educational agencies to pay the state share of the costs of providing school-based early mental health intervention and prevention services to eligible pupils at schoolsites of eligible pupils, subject to the availability of funding each year. This bill would expand the definition of an eligible pupil to include a pupil who attends a state preschool program at a publicly funded elementary school and a pupil who is in transitional kindergarten, thereby extending the application of the act to those persons.

AB 1161 (Olsen) Preschool: Privately Funded Pilot Program: Tax Credits

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 3/23/2015-A. REVENUE & TAX

Calendar: 4/20/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126

Summary: This bill would, until January 1, 2021, authorize the California Department of Education (CDE), as part of a pilot program, to accept monetary contributions made to the California Preschool Investment Fund, which this bill would create, by a person for purposes of preschool education, as provided. The bill would require the money in the fund to be used to, among other things, fund state preschools part of the California state preschool program located in one of the 5 participating counties, as provided. The bill would require participating counties to report to CDE's Early Education and Support Division regarding the county's assessment of how the pilot program is performing. The bill would require any moneys remaining in the fund after January 1, 2021, to be transferred to any other state fund identified by CDE that provides funding for increased access to preschool programs for low-income children.

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE (Continued)

AB 1207 (Lopez) Mandated Child Abuse Reporting: Child Day Care Licensees: Training

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/26/2015-A. PUBLIC SAFETY

Calendar: 4/21/2015 9:00 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 126

Summary: Under existing law, the California Child Day Care Facilities Act, the Department of Social Services (DSS) licenses and regulates child day care facilities, as defined. The act requires that, as a condition of licensure and in addition to any other required training, at least one director or teacher at each day care center, and each family day care home licensee who provides care, have at least 15 hours of health and safety training, covering specified components, including preventative health practices courses, that may include identification and reporting of signs and symptoms of child abuse. This bill would require DSS to develop and disseminate information to those persons regarding detecting and reporting child abuse, and to provide statewide guidance on the responsibilities of those persons as mandated reporters. The bill would require those persons, as a condition of licensure, to complete training pertaining to these matters, as provided.

AB 1314 (Thurmond) Child Care and Development

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 2/27/2015-A. PRINT

Summary: This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would improve access to early care and education programs for working families.

AB 1369 (Frazier) Special Education: Dyslexia

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/23/2015-A. EDUCATION

Calendar: 4/22/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126

Summary: This bill would require local educational agencies to screen all pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive, as provided, to identify dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunctions, and to notify a pupil's parent or legal guardian of any identified dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunction, as specified. The bill would define "dyslexia" and "specific learning disability," as specified.

SB 311 (Beall) Child Care and Development Services Act: Preschool: Alum Rock Union Elementary School District: Pilot Project

Level 2 Current Text: Amended: 4/06/2015 [pdf](#)

Location: 4/09/2015-S. EDUCATION

Calendar: 4/15/2015 9:00 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 4203

Summary: This bill would authorize the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, located in the County of Santa Clara, as a pilot project until January 1, 2022, to develop and implement an individualized eligibility part-day preschool subsidy plan for children residing in the school district for purposes of attending a state-funded part-day preschool program in the school district. The bill would require the school district to consult with preschool programs, as defined, and the Santa Clara Office of Education in developing the plan. The bill would require the plan to include specified elements relating to eligibility and

age of preschool program participation. The bill would require the plan to be submitted to, and approved by, the Santa Clara County Local Child Care Planning Council and the Early Education and Support Division of the California Department of Education. The bill would require the school district to submit an annual report to the Legislature and the department, as provided, and a final report on or before December 31, 2022.

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE (Continued)

SB 548 (De León) Child Care: Family Child Care Providers: Bargaining Representatives

Current Text: Introduced: 2/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/12/2015-S. LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Summary: This bill would authorize family child care providers to form, join, and participate in the activities of provider organizations, as defined, and to seek the certification of a provider organization to act as the exclusive representative for family child care providers on matters related to state-funded child care programs pursuant to a petition and election process overseen by the Public Employment Relations Board or a neutral 3rd party designated by the board.

SB 567 (Liu) Child Care Programs: Continuity of Services

Current Text: Introduced: 2/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 3/12/2015-S. HUMAN SERVICES

Calendar: 4/14/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 3191

Summary: Current law authorizes a family enrolled in state or federally funded child care and development program whose services would otherwise be terminated because the family no longer meets the program criteria to continue to receive child development services in another state or a federally funded child care and development program, as provided. This bill would require a child to be deemed eligible for the remainder of the program year subsequent to enrollment in a state or federally funded child care program.

SB 670 (Jackson) Child Care

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/12/2015-S. RULES

Summary: This bill would declare that it is the intent of the Legislature to enhance and expand the state's early care and educational system.

REVENUE AND GOVERNANCE

AB 48 (Stone) Cigarettes: Singe-Use Filters

Current Text: Amended: 2/13/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 2/17/2015-A. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Summary: This bill would state findings and declarations of the Legislature regarding the health and safety hazards to residents of the state related to cigarettes utilizing single-use filters. The bill would prohibit a person or entity from selling, giving, or in any way furnishing to another person of any age in this state a cigarette utilizing a single-use filter made of any material, including cellulose acetate, or other fibrous plastic material, and any organic or biodegradable material. The bill would prohibit that selling, giving, or furnishing, whether conducted directly or indirectly through an in-person transaction or by means of any public or private method of shipment or delivery to an address in this state.

AB 216 (Garcia) Product Sales to Minors: Vapor Products

Current Text: Amended: 4/13/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/13/2015-A. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Calendar: 4/22/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: Current law prohibits the sale of electronic cigarettes to people under 18 years of age. Current law defines "electronic cigarette" as a device that can provide an inhalable dose of nicotine by delivering a vaporized solution. This bill would prohibit the sale of any device intended to deliver a nonnicotine product in a vapor state, to be directly inhaled by the user, to a person under 18 years of age. The bill would exempt from its prohibition the sale of a drug or medical device that has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

AB 261 (Allen) Cigarettes and Tobacco Products: Retailers: Licenses

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/06/2015-A. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Summary: The California Cigarette and Tobacco Products Licensing Act of 2003 requires a retailer to have and maintain a license from the State Board of Equalization to engage in the sale of cigarette and tobacco products in California. This bill would instead prohibit a person from maintaining or operating a place of business described above unless the person has in place and maintains a license to engage in the sale of cigarette or tobacco products, and the place of business derives at least 50% of its annual gross revenues from the retail sale of cigarettes or tobacco products, as those terms are defined.

REVENUE AND GOVERNANCE (Continued)

AB 768 (Thurmond) Tobacco Free Baseball Act

Current Text: Amended: 4/06/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/07/2015-A. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Summary: This bill would prohibit the use of tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, in a baseball stadium, which includes the physical area in which a professional, collegiate, high school, or other organized baseball game or practice is occurring. The bill would require a baseball stadium to have posted at every entrance a conspicuous sign clearly communicating that the use of tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, is prohibited. The bill provides that, if any provision or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

AB 1162 (Holden) Medi-Cal: Tobacco Cessation

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 3/23/2015-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/21/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: This bill would provide that tobacco cessation services are covered benefits under the Medi-Cal program and would require that those services include, at a minimum, unlimited quit attempts, which would be defined to include at least 4 counseling sessions and a 90-day treatment regimen of any medication approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation.

AB 1238 (Linder) Cigarette and Tobacco Products Taxes: Premium Cigars

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/06/2015-A. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Summary: The Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax Law imposes a tax on every distributor of cigarettes and tobacco products at specified rates, including additional taxes imposed under the Tobacco Tax and Health Protection Act of 1988 (Proposition 99) and the California Families and Children Act of 1998 (Proposition 10). That law imposes taxes on other tobacco products, including cigars, measured by wholesale cost, at a rate determined annually by the Board of Equalization. This bill would define a "premium cigar" for purposes of these taxes as any roll of tobacco spiral wrapped in leaf tobacco that does not contain a plastic or wooden filter or tip, and that weighs over 6 pounds per thousand cigars. The bill would also provide that the rate of tax imposed on the distribution of a premium cigar would not exceed \$ ____.

REVENUE AND GOVERNANCE (Continued)

SB 24 (Hill) Electronic Cigarettes: Licensing and Restrictions

Current Text: Amended: 4/06/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/06/2015-S. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/15/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 4203

Summary: This bill would extend the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Act to sales of electronic cigarettes to minors. The bill would require the Department of Public Health to enforce the STAKE Act's provisions with regard to sales of electronic cigarettes commencing July 1, 2016. The bill would require retailers to apply for a license to sell electronic cigarettes commencing July 1, 2016, and to display the license at each retail location commencing September 30, 2016. The bill would require the Board of Equalization to administer a statewide program to license retailers of electronic cigarettes, and would make the failure to post a notice stating the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors is illegal. The bill would prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes in a variety of specified areas where the smoking of cigarettes and other tobacco products is prohibited. The bill also would require that cartridges for electronic cigarettes and solutions for filling electronic cigarettes be in child-proof packaging to protect children from opening and ingesting the contents.

SB 140 (Leno) Electronic Cigarettes

Current Text: Amended: 4/13/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/13/2015-S. APPROPRIATIONS

Summary: This bill would define the term "smoking" for purposes of the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Act. The bill also would change the STAKE Act's definition of tobacco products to include electronic devices, such as electronic cigarettes, that deliver nicotine or other vaporized liquids, and make furnishing such a tobacco product to a minor a misdemeanor. The bill would change that act's definition of tobacco products to reflect the STAKE Act's new definition of tobacco products. The bill would change the location restrictions for smoking cigarettes and other tobacco products to reflect the STAKE Act's definitions of smoking and tobacco products. The bill would make the use of electronic cigarettes in restricted locations a violation punishable as an infraction. The bill would declare that its provisions do not affect any current law or regulation that prohibits the smoking of medical marijuana in any place where smoking is prohibited by law.

SB 151 (Hernandez) Tobacco Products: Minimum Legal Age

Current Text: Introduced: 1/29/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/09/2015-S. APPROPRIATIONS

Calendar: 4/20/2015 10:00 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 4203

Summary: The Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Act, establishes various requirements for distributors and retailers relating to tobacco sales to minors. Current law requires the Department of Public Health to conduct random, onsite sting inspections of tobacco product retailers with the assistance of persons under 18 years of age. This bill would extend the applicability of those provisions to persons under 21 years of age. The bill would authorize the Department of Public Health to conduct random, onsite sting inspections of tobacco product retailers with the assistance of persons under 21 years of age.

REVENUE AND GOVERNANCE (Continued)

- SB 591** **(Pan) Cigarette and Tobacco Products Taxes: California Tobacco Tax Act of 2015**
Current Text: Introduced: 2/26/2015 [pdf](#)
- Level 1** **Location:** 3/12/2015-S. GOVERNANCE & FINANCE
Calendar: 4/22/2015 9:30 a.m. – State Capitol, Room 112
- Summary:** This bill would impose an additional tax on the distribution of cigarettes at the rate of \$0.10 for each cigarette distributed, which would be \$2.00 per pack. The bill would provide that the revenues collected from the additional tax be deposited in the California Tobacco Tax Act of 2015 Fund created by this bill, which would be a continuously appropriated fund, and transferred into the Tobacco Prevention and Education Account, the Tobacco Disease Related Health Care Account, and the Tobacco Law Enforcement Account to be expended for tobacco prevention and education, improve existing programs to provide quality and access to health care programs for families and children, supplement funding for the enforcement of laws that regulate the distribution and sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products, and other specified purposes. The bill would require moneys in the California Tobacco Tax Act of 2015 Fund to be transferred from the fund to the California Children and Families First Trust Fund, which is a continuously appropriated fund, the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund, the Breast Cancer Fund, and the General Fund, as necessary to offset revenue decreases to those funds directly resulting from imposition of additional taxes by these provisions.
- Notes:** AB 1396 is the compliment bill to SB 591, and would earmark a portion of the new tax to be used in expanding treatment services for Medi-Cal patients with tobacco-related diseases and other illnesses.
-
- SB 643** **(McGuire) Medical Marijuana**
Current Text: Amended: 4/06/2015 [pdf](#)
- Level 2** **Location:** 4/09/2015-S. BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Calendar: 4/20/2015 9:30 a.m. – State Capitol, Room 3191
- Summary:** This bill would establish within the Department of Consumer Affairs a Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation, under the supervision and control of the Chief of the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation, and would require the bureau to license and regulate dispensing facilities, cultivation sites, transporters, and manufacturers of medical marijuana and medical marijuana products, subject to local ordinances. The bill would require a background check of applicants for licensure to be administered by the Department of Justice, and submission of a statement signed by an applicant, under penalty of perjury, that the information on his or her application is true, thereby creating a crime and imposing a state-mandated local program. Violation of the provisions related to applying for a conditional license would be punishable by a civil fine of up to \$35,000 for each individual violation, or as otherwise specified.

STRONG AND ENGAGED FAMILIES

AB 50 (Mullin) Medi-Cal: Nurse Home Visiting Programs

Current Text: Amended: 4/06/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/07/2015-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/14/2105 1:30 p.m. – State Capitol, Room 4202

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in consultation with stakeholders, to develop and implement a plan on or before January 1, 2017, to ensure that Nurse-Family Partnership and other evidence-based nurse home visiting programs are offered and provided to Medi-Cal eligible pregnant women, and would require DHCS, on or before January 1, 2022, and every 5 years thereafter, to report to the Legislature, as specified. The bill would also require DHCS, in developing the plan, to consider, among other things, establishing Medi-Cal coverage for evidence-based nurse home visiting program services and incentives for providers to offer those services.

AB 302 (Garcia) Pupil Services: Lactation Accommodations

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/09/2015-A. APPROPRIATIONS

Summary: This bill would require a school district to provide reasonable accommodations to a lactating pupil on a high school campus to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding. The bill would require that these reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to, access to a private and secure room, other than a restroom, to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child, permission to bring onto a school campus any equipment used to express breast milk, access to a power source for that equipment, and access to a place to safely store expressed breast milk. The bill would also require that a lactating pupil on a high school campus be given a reasonable amount of time to accommodate the need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child. The bill would require a school district to provide reasonable accommodations, as specified, only if there is at least one lactating pupil on a high school campus in that district.

AB 492 (Gonzalez) CalWORKs: Welfare-To-Work: Supportive Services

Current Text: Amended: 3/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 4/06/2015-A. HUMAN SERVICES

Calendar: 4/28/2105 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 437

Summary: Current law requires that necessary supportive services be available to participants in welfare-to-work activities, including child care. This bill would provide that necessary supportive services also include vouchers in the amount of \$50 per month for diaper products for every child two years of age or younger enrolled in child care pursuant to the above-mentioned provisions.

STRONG AND ENGAGED FAMILIES (Continued)

AB 908 (Gomez) Disability Compensation: Family Temporary Disability Insurance

Current Text: Amended: 3/18/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 1 Location: 4/08/2015-A. APPROPRIATIONS

SUPPORT Summary: This bill would require the family temporary disability insurance program to provide up to 10 weeks of wage replacement benefits. This bill would, for purposes of this program, require the weekly benefit amount to be calculated with a specified formula. However, the amount would be prohibited from being less than \$250 and more than the maximum workers' compensation temporary disability indemnity weekly benefit amount.

AB 1371 (Lackey) Personal Income Taxes: Deduction: Education Expenses

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/23/2015-A. REVENUE & TAX

Summary: This bill, for taxable years on or after January 1, 2016, and before January 1, 2021, would allow a deduction from gross income, not to exceed \$2,500, for the cost of education-related expenses of the taxpayer's dependent child or children attending public or private school, as specified.

SB 579 (Jackson) Employees: Sick Leave

Current Text: Introduced: 2/26/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 3/12/2015-S. LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Calendar: 4/22/2105 9:30 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 2040

Summary: This bill would require that and employer who provides sick leave to permit an employee to use sick leave to address a childcare or school emergency, as defined, and would prohibit an employer from denying an employee the right to use sick leave or taking specific discriminatory action against an employee for using, or attempting to exercise the right to use, sick leave to address a childcare or school emergency.

SB 636 (Liu) Homeless Youth: Basic Material Needs Assistance

Current Text: Introduced: 4/07/2015 [pdf](#)

Level 2 Location: 4/07/2015-S. HUMAN SERVICES

Calendar: 4/14/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 3191

Summary: This bill would create the Homeless Youth Basic Material Needs Assistance Program. The bill would require that moneys appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes of the program be allocated proportionally by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to each county program based on the number of homeless youth in the county. The bill would authorize a county to establish the program or request DSS to administer the program, in which case DSS would be required to retain the county's proportional share of funds and directly administer a program in that county. The bill would require each contracted nonprofit to prepare a report for the administering entity including, among other information, the number of homeless youth assisted. The bill would require the department, after the program has been operating for 3 years, to issue a report including, among other information, the number of homeless youth assisted each year, and a description of the assistance provided.



April 9, 2015

The Honorable Marty Block, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 1 on Education
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and
Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2015-16 Budget Proposals for Early Learning and Care Systems

Dear Senators Block and Mitchell:

First 5 California is grateful to the Senate for championing high-quality early learning and care, and urges you to extend this priority over a multiple-year period to achieve three goals: restore lost care access for babies and preschoolers, regain affordability for quality care, and ensure high quality for every subsidized slot in the early learning system. The brain science and outcomes-based research are clear: the first five years of a child's life are the most impactful time to invest in future success. Ninety percent of a child's brain has developed by the age of 5, with 83 percent of development in the first three years. A child's vocabulary when they enter kindergarten is directly linked to their success in school and ultimate life outcomes.

High-quality supports for children and their families during the first five years of life are the most important and strategic state investments that can be made. During the Great Recession, California made many sacrifices to support systems for young children and their families. The place of greatest sacrifice was in high-quality child care and early learning program access. The proof through research on the impact of high quality child care on a child's welfare and future success is unparalleled and must guide the state's reinvestment during these years of economic recovery.

We urge a significant investment in both Proposition 98 and non-Proposition 98 general funds this year to continue rebuilding a high-quality early learning system, with an understanding that we need ambitious, multi-year goals to reach the eligible children we currently do not serve.

1. AFFORDABILITY: Increase the state's reimbursement rates and provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) so low-income families can access quality programs and providers can continue to offer quality services for babies and young children.

Given the need to continue quality improvements, address parent access to quality programs in their communities, and address the continuous cost pressure to maintain operations (including the recent increase in minimum wage), state reimbursement rate increases are necessary:

- Increase the Regional Market Rate ceiling so families can access 85 percent of the programs in their communities based on the statutory survey;
- Increase the Standard Reimbursement Rate;
- Increase the infant multiplier from 1.7 to 2.3 and the toddler multiplier from 1.4 to 1.8; and
- Adopt a COLA for all early learning programs.

We also urge the state to continue policy efforts to simplify the reimbursement rate structures.

2. ACCESS: Expand access to quality early learning for low-income young children and their families.

During the Great Recession, over 100,000 early learning and care slots were lost to our state's children. Restoring basic access to quality care must continue.

Last year, Governor Brown and the State Legislature increased the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) by 11,500 slots and declared their intent to provide full-day, full-year quality preschool opportunities to all low-income 4-year-olds over a multi-year period. In order to continue progress toward this promise, we propose further significant expansions with Proposition 98 funding this year:

- Expand the Governor's Budget funding of 4,000 new CSPP slots to 14,500 total new full-day, full-year slots;
- Fund an additional 10,500 full-day, full-year CSPP slots starting in June 2016.

In addition to these new preschool slots, we urge a statutory commitment to the remainder of the preschool slots necessary to achieve universal access for all eligible children, and a state plan to lay out implementation toward this promise.

Given the serious need for families to have access to quality care for babies and toddlers in multiple settings, we propose the Budget Act:

- Expand General Child Care and Alternative Payment Program access for infants and toddlers by 10,500 slots; and
- Expand reach of family child care home education networks to serve more babies and toddlers.

It is of particular importance that slot expansion for babies and toddlers includes rate and adjustment factor increases to ensure quality and access.

In addition to these budget year access expansions, it is crucial that the state begin rebuilding the Central Eligibility List system state-wide. We urge the Legislature to task the California Department of Education (CDE) with a new Central Eligibility List plan in the Budget Act in order to better serve families locally and provide state-wide data on need.

3. QUALITY: Continue to focus on increasing quality in all settings.

California has many successful local and state efforts to support high-quality early learning environments; however, the state still needs to invest in a consistent, system-wide focus on quality and continuous quality improvement to ensure families throughout the state have equal access to quality child care and preschool.

First 5 California urges the Legislature to build on the local Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to achieve three crucial improvements to our quality support systems this year:

- 1) Add funds for infant and toddler care providers' participation in the local QRIS block grants;
- 2) Expand professional learning opportunities for all providers, including through the Community Colleges lab schools, programs, and courses; and
- 3) Align current and increased federal Child Care Development Block Grant investments with new federal requirements and a state vision for quality systems state-wide, including QRIS.

Central to the brain research on the impact of early learning environments on children ages 0 to 5 is the importance of parent engagement strategies, and we look forward to a policy discussion about how to better engage, strengthen, and support parents during these crucial years.

California's early learning and care system took the most significant reductions during the Great Recession, including many years of deferred COLA and rate adjustments. The enormity of the system's restoration and rebuilding needs are dwarfed only by the potential impact these precious funds have on each child's life to improve society's outcomes. We support the Legislative Women's Caucus's position that this year's budget must contain at least a \$600 million investment toward this goal.

April 9, 2015

Page 4

Finally, I urge your support for the Education Omnibus Trailer bill language provided by the Administration, which requires the CDE to convene two stakeholder groups with a goal of streamlining child care data, reporting, and administrative redundancies. Both stakeholder groups include First 5 California, and we appreciate this opportunity to assist in system coordination.

On behalf of First 5 California*, I want to thank you for your leadership for our state's youngest children. We urge the Legislature to put our babies and children first in this year's Budget. In a resource-limited environment, the most impactful expenditures must be prioritized, and California's investment in early childhood education and care will deliver a lifetime of successful outcomes for our children and state.

Sincerely,



Camille Maben
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Members of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1 on Education
Members of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health
and Human Services
Elisa Wynne, Consultant
Samantha Liu, Consultant
Michelle Baass, Consultant
First 5 California State Commissioners

* First 5 California, established through a voter approved initiative in 1998 known as the California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10), oversees the expenditure of tobacco tax revenues to support, promote, and optimize early childhood development through coordinated programs that emphasize child health, parent education, child care, and other services and programs for children prenatal through age 5. First 5 California's overarching goal is to improve the lives of young children and their families to ensure California's children receive the best possible start in life and thrive.



April 8, 2015

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
on Education Finance
State Capitol, Room 2160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2015-16 Budget Proposals for Early Learning and Care Systems

Dear Assemblymembers Thurmond and McCarty:

First 5 California is grateful to the Assembly for championing high-quality early learning and care, and urges you to extend this priority over a multiple-year period to achieve three goals: restore lost care access for babies and preschoolers, regain affordability for quality care, and ensure high quality for every subsidized slot in the early learning system. The brain science and outcomes-based research are clear: the first five years of a child's life are the most impactful time to invest in future success. Ninety percent of a child's brain has developed by the age of 5, with 83 percent of development in the first three years. A child's vocabulary when they enter kindergarten is directly linked to their success in school and ultimate life outcomes.

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We urge a significant investment in both Proposition 98 and non-Proposition 98 general funds this year to continue rebuilding a high-quality early learning system, with an understanding that we need ambitious, multi-year goals to reach the eligible children we currently do not serve.

1. AFFORDABILITY: Increase the state's reimbursement rates and provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) so low-income families can access quality programs and providers can continue to offer quality services for babies and young children.

Given the need to continue quality improvements, address parent access to quality programs in their communities, and address the continuous cost pressure to maintain operations (including the recent increase in minimum wage), state reimbursement rate increases are necessary:

- Increase the Regional Market Rate ceiling so families can access 85 percent of the programs in their communities based on the statutory survey;
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During the Great Recession, over 100,000 early learning and care slots were lost to our state's children. Restoring basic access to quality care must continue.

Last year, Governor Brown and the State Legislature increased the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) by 11,500 slots and declared their intent to provide full-day, full-year quality preschool opportunities to all low-income 4-year-olds over a multi-year period. In order to continue progress toward this promise, we propose further significant expansions with Proposition 98 funding this year:

- Expand the Governor's Budget funding of 4,000 new CSPP slots to 14,500 total new full-day, full-year slots;
- Fund an additional 10,500 full-day, full-year CSPP slots starting in June 2016.

In addition to these new preschool slots, we urge a statutory commitment to the remainder of the preschool slots necessary to achieve universal access for all eligible children, and a state plan to lay out implementation toward this promise.

Given the serious need for families to have access to quality care for babies and toddlers in multiple settings, we propose the Budget Act:

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It is of particular importance that slot expansion for babies and toddlers includes rate and adjustment factor increases to ensure quality and access.

In addition to these budget year access expansions, it is crucial that the state begin rebuilding the Central Eligibility List system state-wide. We urge the Legislature to task the California Department of Education (CDE) with a new Central Eligibility List plan in the Budget Act in order to better serve families locally and provide state-wide data on need.

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First 5 California urges the Legislature to build on the local Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to achieve three crucial improvements to our quality support systems this year:

- 1) Add funds for infant and toddler care providers' participation in the local QRIS block grants;
- 2) Expand professional learning opportunities for all providers, including through the Community Colleges lab schools, programs, and courses; and
- 3) Align current and increased federal Child Care Development Block Grant investments with new federal requirements and a state vision for quality systems state-wide, including QRIS.

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California's early learning and care system took the most significant reductions during the Great Recession, including many years of deferred COLA and rate adjustments. The enormity of the system's restoration and rebuilding needs are dwarfed only by the potential impact these precious funds have on each child's life to improve society's outcomes. We support the Legislative Women's Caucus's position that this year's budget must contain at least a \$600 million investment toward this goal.

April 8, 2015

Page 4

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On behalf of First 5 California*, I want to thank you for your leadership for our state's youngest children. We urge the Legislature to put our babies and children first in this year's Budget. In a resource-limited environment, the most impactful expenditures must be prioritized, and California's investment in early childhood education and care will deliver a lifetime of successful outcomes for our children and state.

Sincerely,



Camille Maben
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Shirley Weber, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services
Members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant
Andrea Margolis, Consultant
Mark Martin, Consultant
First 5 California State Commissioners

* First 5 California, established through a voter approved initiative in 1998 known as the California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10), oversees the expenditure of tobacco tax revenues to support, promote, and optimize early childhood development through coordinated programs that emphasize child health, parent education, child care, and other services and programs for children prenatal through age 5. First 5 California's overarching goal is to improve the lives of young children and their families to ensure California's children receive the best possible start in life and thrive.



March 23, 2015

The Honorable Kansen Chu, Chair
Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5175
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 74 (CALDERON)
AS INTRODUCED JANUARY 5, 2015**

Dear Assemblymember Chu:

The California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) lends its strong support to AB 74, which would require the California Department of Social Services to conduct annual unannounced licensing visits to all community care facilities.

First 5 California recognizes the primary purpose of unannounced site visits is to ensure licensed community care facilities are safe. Frequent visits provide opportunities for enhanced information sharing, to allow facilities to develop best practices, and to provide state and local agencies the ability to impart relevant and up-to-date information to the public regarding a facility's profile. These opportunities have the natural consequence of improving the over-all quality of care administered by a facility.

First 5 California's vision is to ensure California's children receive the best possible start in life and thrive. In that regard, First 5 California keenly understands the importance of protecting the health and safety of children in licensed child care settings. Promoting safe learning environments for young children is foundational to a child's health and development, and enhances school readiness.

Currently, the California Department of Social Services conducts compliance inspections on community care facilities at least once every five years, with an annual random sample of 30 percent of facilities. Unannounced annual inspections are conducted only when a facility has a history of compliance problems, which has resulted in annual inspections for only roughly 10 percent of facilities. However, in most cases, five years could pass before a residential facility is inspected by the Community Care Licensing Division. It is First 5 California's hope that annual inspections be authorized and funded as soon as possible.

The Honorable Kansen Chu
March 23, 2015
Page 2

The current frequency of site visits is woefully inadequate to effectively protect the health and safety of our young children in child care settings. AB 74 takes a significant step toward addressing the essential need to ensure these facilities are providing quality services necessary to guard and nurture California's most vulnerable population.

For these reasons, First 5 California respectfully requests your "Aye" vote on AB 74. If you have questions regarding First 5 California's position on AB 74, please contact Erin Gabel, Deputy Director of External and Governmental Affairs, at egabel@ccfc.ca.gov or (916) 263-1093.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Camille Maben".

Camille Maben
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Ian Calderon, California State Assembly
Members of the Assembly Human Services Committee
Myesha Jackson, Senior Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee