



March 2, 2018

The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember McCarty:

Well-established research demonstrates the first three years of a child's life are critical to a child's positive brain development. Parents need access to child care that promotes their child's healthy development and learning while they work. However, affordable child care is simply not available for most low-income families, and this crisis is particularly acute for our state's babies. Less than 14 percent of California's eligible infants and toddlers, ages 0 to 2, have access to affordable, subsidized care. The severe undersupply of infant and toddler care is creating a crisis for working parents and their families, our businesses, and our state's future.

First 5 California urges the Assembly to supplement the January Budget with critical investments for babies: new child care spaces, adequate per-child funding, age appropriate and inclusive facilities and infrastructure, licensing support, and professional development for all care settings.

Specifically, we request that you take the following actions:

1. First and foremost, double the number of children served in Alternative Placement Program spaces, from 33,000 to 66,000, to immediately improve access for children within our mixed-delivery system.
2. Strengthen supports for child care providers across the Early Care and Education system to open their doors to our babies and toddlers in need:
 - Increase the infant/toddler adjustment factor for the Standard Reimbursement Rate to better reflect the actual cost of high-quality infant and toddler care
 - Reestablish three professional development days for Title 5 providers
 - Provide child care centers with start-up funds so providers can begin to convert existing and unused classrooms into appropriate infant and toddler care rooms

March 2, 2018

Page 2

3. Support the Governor's Early Education Expansion Program, using the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) definition of Early Childhood Inclusion,¹ to ensure it will provide equitable opportunity for all types of early learning providers, and significantly augment its one-time funding to support facilities, equipment, professional development, and other quality improvements across our mixed-delivery system.

Finally, we request the Legislature address our licensed care capacity crisis and support the Child Care Initiative Project and professional development for all levels of care through the strategic use of one-time carry over funds of the Child Care Development Fund - Quality Improvement (CCDF-QI) funds. First 5 California also continues to support start-up and on-going funding for the consumer education database from the CCDF-QI funds.

Under your leadership, California has made laudable progress on expanding education opportunities for our four-year-old children to attend preschool and transitional kindergarten, and now is the time for the state to also focus its attention on our youngest, most vulnerable children during these first key years. If you have any questions or need technical assistance, do not hesitate to contact Erin Gabel, Deputy Director of External and Governmental Affairs, at egabel@ccfc.ca.gov or (916) 263-1093.

Sincerely,



Camille Maben
Executive Director

¹ NAEYC Definition of Early Childhood Inclusion: Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society. The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation, and supports.

March 2, 2018

Page 3

Cc: The Honorable Philip Ting, California State Assembly
The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, California State Assembly
The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
George Halvorson, Chair, First 5 California
Alejandra Campoverdi, Commissioner, First 5 California
Muntu Davis, Commissioner, First 5 California
Monica Fitzgerald, Commissioner, First 5 California
Shana Hazan, Commissioner, First 5 California
Lupe Jaime, Commissioner, First 5 California
Molly Munger, Commissioner, First 5 California
Jim Suennen, Ex-Officio Member Designee, First 5 California