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February 24, 2017

Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio  
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee  
1020 N Street, #124  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 60 (Santiago & Gonzalez) - Support

Dear Chairperson Rubio:

The Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council supports Assembly Bill 60 (Santiago, Weber & Gonzalez) which would ensure children can stay in care for as long as their families need it and defrosts State Median Income guidelines that have been frozen for over a decade. These are two key policies we think are so important we incorporated them in our recently launched Individualized Subsidy Pilot plan.

The intent of this bill is to promote continuous child care assistance for children and families for an extended period of time. Working low-income families often experience rapid and multiple changes in income and work-related activities. Retention of child care during a temporary hardship such as unemployment or extended illness alleviates stress on children and families and facilitates parents' smooth transition back into the workforce. Stable child care is critical to strengthen parents' ability to work, improve their prospects in the job market, and increase their earning potential. In addition, continuity creates the stable conditions children need for their healthy development and school-readiness. Research shows that children's educational and developmental outcomes improve when they have continuity in their child care arrangements. Frequent changes in child care arrangements are associated with higher levels of stress and negative behavior in young children (Dicker, S., and Gordon, E., Zero to Three, 2004).

AB 60 is an extraordinary opportunity to remove unjust and unjustified, red-tape reporting rules that cause eligible families to churn in and out of child care programs; put their jobs at risk; disrupt children's school readiness and development; force them to turn down job promotions, make it impossible for child care providers to balance ledgers or plan for quality investments while accepting subsidized children; and burden employers and education providers who are required to sign off on endless paperwork. For these reasons, the Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council supports this legislation and requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,

Renee S. Herzfeld, Chair  
Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council

