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Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your AMAZING early care and education (ECE) proposals in the California Budget. We applaud your leadership, the unprecedented funding level and scope of your initiatives, and your attention to infrastructure needs of staff and facilities. Please consider these additional points:

Facilities: We support increased facilities funds as precursors to expansion and quality. We urge you to develop new technical assistance mechanisms to support: all sizes of child care providers; an array of uses including predevelopment, health and safety repairs, and new construction; and diverse child care programs (beyond Title 5 contractors). At a recent local meeting, two large programs serving low-income children commented that they had not had an accessible source of facilities renovation or repair funding in their 45 year history. Another estimated that renovations and ADA compliance would cost her center \$4 million. These programs do technically qualify for the current underfunded and prohibitively structured state fund, which mean we must make improvements or programs won't take advantage of them.

Infants and Toddlers: We support increasing access to early childhood education through increasing full day spaces while also drawing your attention to the striking and ongoing need for infant and toddler care. This need will persist despite your significant paid family leave proposal. Our County has an estimated gap of 22,479 spaces for income-eligible infants and toddlers. An increasing number of families with young children are experiencing homelessness and need intensive navigation support and quality child care access.

Local Coordination and Pilot: The ECE Planning Council is one of 57 councils statewide which provide a public forum to discuss and customize policy and ECE supports for our local communities. In Alameda County alone we regularly convene three resource and referral agencies and five child care payment agencies and we work to track and maximize roughly \$160 million in federal and state subsidies that serve 12,000 children. Please increase funding for Local Planning Councils to provide crucial technical assistance and capacity building tailored to local needs. We also need to sustain Alameda County's child care subsidy pilot which has increased access to over 800 new children in under two years.

Thank you again for your leadership and partnership.

Sincerely,

Melanie Mueller
Chair

Cc:

Senator Steve Glazer

Senator Nancy Skinner

Senator Bob Wieckowski

Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

Assemblyman Rob Bonta

Assemblyman Kansen Chu

Assemblyman Bill Quirk

Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks

Department of Finance

Legislative Analyst's Office

Early Learning and Care Division, CA Department of Education