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Planning Council Staff:

LaWanda Wesley

ECE Quality Manager
LPC Program Coordinator
Phone: 510-208-9651
lawanda.wesley@acgov.org

Ellen Dektar

Senior Management Analyst
Phone: 510-208-9578
ellen.dektar@acgov.org

Michael Panori

Program Support
Phone: 510-208-9620
michael.panori@acgov.org



1401 Lakeside Drive, #1116
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: 510-208-9620
Fax: 510-208-9579
www.acgov.org/childcare

January 30, 2018

Governor Jerry Brown
C/O Education Systems Unit
California Department of Finance
925 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Proposed 2018-2019 Budget

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for increasing early care and education (ECE) funding in your proposed state budget. We greatly appreciate the Title 5 rate increase, sustaining last year's voucher rate increase, and adding funding to increase support for inclusive child care.

Almost daily, a new report details the positive high impact of early care and education and yet ECE programs and staff are persistently underfunded. Given the improved revenue forecast, we respectfully request that you reconsider making all of your proposed \$3.5 billion additional Rainy Day transfer and as part of this consider additional ECE rate reform and adding funding for infant and toddler spaces.

More than half of our births in Alameda County are to foreign born mothers. Therefore, we also request that you support the continued expansion of state resources directed to address federal action that affects California's immigrant families and also consider adjustments to CalWORKs grants in order to lift more of young children and their families out of poverty.

We look forward to learning more about the one time competitive inclusion program—both the potential to annualize revenue and how the program will be structured to maximize local impact. For instance, we see a need for more inclusion resources for both voucher and state contracted programs, and in infant, toddler, and preschool age groupings, as well as the lack of resources in Regional Centers and other agencies serving these children.

We offer our large ECE field as ongoing partners in budget and policy discussions to improve California children's school readiness and success!

Sincerely,

Renee S. Herzfeld
Chair

Cc:

Senator Steve Glazer
Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Bob Wicowski
Assemblywoman Catharine Baker
Assemblyman Rob Bonta
Assemblyman Kansen Chu
Assemblyman Bill Quirk
Assemblyman Tony Thurmond
Assemblyman Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee