



Child Care Association of San Francisco
656-1011 Email: fccasf@gmail.com www.fccasf.com

January 29, 2018

Dear California Assembly,

Thank you so much for looking to find ways to support children and families as they struggle to pay for the rising cost of preschool care. It is rewarding to know that all those years of early childhood educators, neuroscientists and child care advocates has finally convinced you that early childhood education isn't a luxury, it is a public good that benefits all of us.

Unfortunately, finding ways to help low and middle-income parents find quality affordable child care requires some strategic planning when it comes to government funding. How can the state fund preschool without funding large for profit mega-corporations? The answer seemed simple: fund state preschools only. If the funding is kept in the CDE system, private for-profit preschools are not eligible for funding and not only does the woefully underfunded state preschool system get a boost, but parents finally have some relief from an annual child care tuition that is more than a year at UC Berkeley.

The family child care providers understand your dilemma and I think we can help. We are also woefully underfunded, and currently care for tens of thousands of children across the state in neighborhood based, culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate high-quality preschools. We know our parents are hurting because we're hurting too. Our profession is one of the lowest paid in the nation, and that isn't because we are uneducated, or lack training. It has only been recently, as you know that anyone has had the political will to give ECE more than a cursory nod come budget.

State preschools are not the only option. There are plenty small preschools and family child care homes across the state that have held firm to the belief that children and families mattered, that early care and education is more about relationships than bottom line, and that we work long hours for little pay providing quality care for California's youngest citizens.

We applaud your attention and support on the need to better fund early care and education in California, and we hope that with a slight modification that includes family child care as an alternative to state preschools every parent across the state will have an opportunity to choose a care setting that best suits the needs of their family.

Sincerely,
Patricia Sullivan, EdD
Family Child Care Association of San Francisco