



SB 548: The Raising Child Care Quality and Accessibility Act (RCCQA)

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The issue of income inequality is at the forefront of the nation and our state. Too many families, particularly those headed by single working women, are living in poverty. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one-third of people in single-mother families in the United States are poor, and 6 in 10 live below the 200% of the poverty threshold. Women are a driving force in our economy and without ensuring their economic success the state's economy cannot grow - more importantly the middle class cannot grow. California must implement policies that support families in achieving economic stability and ensure they can access a stable, quality child care system.

The Raising Child Care Quality and Accessibility Act (RCCQA) is child-care-related legislation that provides a triple benefit to the state by: (1) helping the poorest working parents lift their families out of poverty, (2) strengthening jobs in the child care and development sector, (3) helping support parents' efforts to provide learning and development opportunities at home.

- **Expand access to quality care that supports the educational development of very low-income children** by adding new slots for alternative payment vouchers. Currently less than 10% of income-eligible infants and toddlers are served by California's child care system, the very years when early learning can have greatest impact and lead to future success. An increase in voucher slots would allow parents to choose the child care setting that best meets the family and child's needs. Slots would be focused on the poorest families currently without access to care.
- **Extend collective bargaining process to family child care providers.** If providers choose a union, they would bargain over matters that improve child care quality, access, provider recruitment and retention, and provider and children's health and well-being including pay procedures, funding streams relating to early education, rates, standardizing the administration of licensing, training, access for parents, and other policies.
- **Establishing a training partnership program between the State and provider organization** that would identify gaps in training and education and recommend collaborations and strategies to improve quality. The partnership would prioritize opportunities to combine federal and private funding to add capacity to existing state training resources, from General Education Classes (GED) and English Language Learner (ELL) classes for providers and center teachers to support attaining higher education credentials in Child Development to proven training models like Apprenticeship programs which would combine classroom teaching with on-the-job training.

- **Authorize a study of best practices for parent engagement.** Parent engagement is a crucial part of children's success in early care, in school and later in life. The State will sponsor a study of best practices for culturally competent parent engagement in home-based early care and education to determine how to most effectively ensure that parents are involved with their children's development and are better able to provide learning and other developmental opportunities for their children at home.

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