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SENATOR KEVIN DE LEÓN

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

SB 548 (De León/Atkins) **Raising Child Care Quality & Accessibility Act**

PURPOSE: The Raising Child Care Quality and Accessibility Act would benefit the state by helping working parents to lift their families out of poverty and support the development of their children, as well as strengthening jobs in the child care and development sector.

BACKGROUND:

Women are a driving force in our economy. Without ensuring their economic success, the state's economy – and the middle class - cannot grow. California must implement policies that support women and families in achieving economic stability, which includes ensuring that they can access a stable, high-quality child care system.

Too many families, particularly those headed by single working women, are living in poverty. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure, 1 in 4 Californians lives in poverty. An even greater number of California children in single-parent households live below the poverty line (with 40% living below the Official Poverty Line in 2012). At the same time, two-thirds of California families living in poverty (67%) are supported by one or more workers in the household.

Today, approximately 350,000 low-income children in California benefit from the state's subsidized child care system. This includes less than 10% of the infants and toddlers whose families are low-income enough to qualify for assistance. Without access to reliable child care, this leaves too many families facing impossible choices between working and providing for their families and keeping their children safe.

Child care workers themselves are also struggling with low wages and increased costs that too often make their take-home pay less than minimum wage. Without the ability to come together collectively and have a seat at the table, they are unable to bargain over issues that would improve child care quality and access and the stability of the system.

PROPOSAL: This legislation would:

- **Extend a 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.
- **Establish 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 funding streams 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 for attaining higher education credentials.
- **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 able to provide learning and other developmental opportunities at home.

SUPPORT:

9 to 5

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) (co-sponsor)

American Association of University Women (AAUW) San Jose

Black Women for Wellness

California Alliance for Retired Americans

California Labor Federation

California NOW

California Women Lawyers Legislative Committee

Children Now

Community Coalition

Community Education Partnerships

Consumer Attorneys of CA

Courage Campaign

Education Equity

Equal Rights Advocates

Magdalena Carrasco, East San Jose Councilmember

Monterey County Board of Supervisors

National Association of Working Women
National Council of Jewish Lawyers
National Council of Jewish Women California
Our Family Coalition
PIQE
Raising CA Together Coalition (co-sponsor)
Representative Ted Lieu, United States Congress
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California (co-sponsor)
Special Needs Network
UAW 2865
UAW, Local 5810
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Western Regional Advocacy Project
Young Invincibles

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