



**Early Childhood Policy Council  
DRAFT LETTER**

December 14, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom, State of  
California  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Pro Tem Toni Atkins  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Anthony Rendon  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor, Madam Pro Tem, and Mr. Speaker:

The Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC) was established in law via Senate Bill 75 (Chapter 51, Statutes of 2019) to advise the Governor, Legislature, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning and care policy.

We are grateful that the Administration has listened to the advocates through the adoption of temporary COVID-19 policies that are helping both families and the early education workforce survive a traumatic pandemic — and now the “triple-demic” of COVID, RSV, and virulent strain of the flu. We also recognize and appreciate the Administration’s establishment of the Rate and Quality Workgroup to address the state’s woefully inadequate reimbursement rate structure. We know that the child care workforce is essential – before, during, and after the pandemic.

As you embark on the State Budget development process for State Fiscal Year 2023-24, we urge the Administration and Legislature to uphold the following investments that mitigate the harm of systemic injustices and racism and combat COVID-19’s ongoing damage to children, families, and providers.

**Protect and preserve access to quality, affordable child care.**

- Make COVID-19 policies permanent, including hold harmless and family fee waivers, both of which are set to expire June 30, 2023.
- Keep the Administration's current commitments to expanding access to child care.

**Protect and expand the early care workforce.**

- Adopt the recommendations of the Governor's Rate and Quality Workgroup in its report (found here: [Rate and Quality Workgroup Report](#)) and the accompanying modeling of an alternative methodology rate structure, [Understanding the True Cost of Child Care in California: Building A Cost Model to Inform Policy Change](#).

**Support the social, emotional, and developmental needs of children.**

- Ensure that the Governor's investments in behavioral health and supports for children with special needs are inclusive of early childhood care beginning at birth.

We are confident that the Administration and Legislature can find revenue sources to support these essential investments and not be deterred by the fiscal forecast.

Finally, we respectfully request a meeting with the Governor in early 2023 to discuss these investments.

As your partners in helping California families with young children navigate the challenges of today and supporting the early care and learning workforce provide essential services that support California's economy, we look forward to working with you to ensure our children remain a top priority. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Early Childhood Policy Council  
ECPC Parent Advisory Committee  
ECPC Workforce Advisory Committee