



## **Early Childhood Policy Council**

### **Agenda and Transcripts**

#### **Virtual Meeting**

Thursday, May 29, 2025  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### **Physical Meeting**

1000 G Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
WestEd, 5th floor, Capitol Room

## **Agenda**

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### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

- Welcome
- Review of agenda
- Report-out from Chairs of Advisory Committees

### **2. Addressing Federal Immigration Action in Early Learning Spaces**

- Presentation and panel discussion
- Council discussion

### **3. May Revise Budget Updates and Consideration of ECPC Budget Letter**

- Presentation
- Council discussion
- Possible Council action

### **4. Update on Rate Reform**

- Status update
- Questions from the Council

### **5. General Public Comment**

- Members of the public are invited to provide comment

## Attendance

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### ECPC Council Members:

Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, Carola Oliva-Olson, Donna Sneeringer, Janet Zamudio, Kim Pattillo Brownson, Laura (Kay) Ruhstaller, Lissete Frausto, Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Mary Ann Hansen, Mary Ignatius, Mayra E. Alvarez, Miren Algorri, Natali Gaxiola, Robin Layton, Socorro Martin, Sonia Jaramillo, Tonia McMillian.

### Parent Advisory Committee Members:

Deborah Corley-Marzett, Lissete Frausto, Mary Ignatius.

### Workforce Advisory Committee:

Miren Algorri, Tonia McMillian, Zoila Toma.

### Guest:

*CDSS*: Claire Ramsey, Deborah Rawson, Desirae Carrera, Eliana Kaimowitz, Jackie Barocio, Nicole Davis, Romi Lal, Shanice Orum.

*DOJ*: Jackie Gonzalez

*CDE*: Richard Barrera

*The Children's Partnership*: Liza Davis

*California Budget Center*: Scott Graves

*Prenatal5*: Simon Workman

### Hosts:

Claire Ramsey, Diana Yactayo, Jateri Willis, Karin Bloomer, Ramee Serwanga, Veronique Baumbach, Alejandra (SP), Brenda (SP), Catherine Shu (CN), Ya-Nan Chou (CN).

## Meeting Transcript

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### 1. Welcome and Introduction

- Meeting features

#### **Karin Bloomer:**

Good morning everyone. Before we begin the meeting, I'd like to review a few Zoom features with you. We'll enable these features after providing the following instructions. In a few moments, we will be offering the closed captioning feature in Zoom. To access this feature, you'll need to locate the live transcript button at the bottom of your Zoom screen and then click show subtitle. This will allow you to view closed captions in English throughout the meeting. In a moment, we will also offer language interpretation services. I'll now turn things over to our interpreters to describe how you can listen to this meeting in English, Spanish, or Mandarin. Would our Spanish interpreter like to describe this language slide first in English?

#### **Spanish Interpreter:**

[The interpreter provides instructions in Spanish.] Okay, now I pass the comment to the Chinese interpreter.

### **Mandarin Interpreter:**

Good morning everyone. Welcome to the meeting. In order to provide the language access, this meeting will have simultaneous bidirectional interpretation from English to Spanish and Mandarin. Please be reminded that the translation globe will not appear until we have finished reading through all the language instructions. Therefore, we're asking that everyone joining us for this event. Please select your preferred language to facilitate the hearing the presenters and participants clearly, preventing any technical glitches or interference occurring between the three language channels when one is not selected. If you are on your laptop or desktop computer, please locate the icon shaped like a globe at the bottom of your screen later.

Click on the language interpretation and select English if you are listening to English. If you are on iPad or your phone or a similar device, please locate the three-dot menu on the upper right or lower right corner of your screen. Click on language interpretation and select English channel if you are listening to English. If there's a chance for you to speak, please do so at a moderate pace because the interpreter is going to be simultaneously interpreting everything you say.

[The interpreter provides instructions in Mandarin.]Thank you.

### **Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you so much. We'll now activate the interpretation feature. Please select your preferred language channel at this time. And three more items of note. We'll be opening up the chat feature for five minutes at the end of each agenda item to invite written public comment. And during the final comment period, we'll also invite verbal public comment. We'll be asking those who give verbal testimony to limit their time to two minutes in order to invite as many voices as possible to share. Also, the slides we share today will be posted on the ECPC webpage within the next week. And finally, council members in order to adhere to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Law, you are required to keep your cameras on at all times during the meeting unless you're having technical difficulties, in which case we'd appreciate you letting us know. And with that, I will turn the meeting over to Claire Ramsey, who will be chairing the meeting today.

- [Welcome and Meeting Agenda](#)

### **Claire Ramsey:**

Good morning everyone and thank you for joining us today for the second quarterly meeting of the Early Childhood Policy Council. And thank you to Karin and the WestEd team for all the support today to make this meeting possible. I'm Claire Ramsey. I'm one of the Chief Deputy Directors at the California Department of Social Services, and it's my pleasure to chair this meeting today. And to all the council members, thank you for attending. As I'm sure many of you are experiencing end of the school year, lots of things happening. So appreciate your attendance and participation today. We also want to thank members of the advisory committees who are able to be here as well. And also

thank you to the many stakeholders who are attending this meeting and sharing your perspectives through public comment. For roll call, we will have our support team take note of the council members who are in attendance, so we won't be doing a verbal roll call. I will be doing a quick review of our agenda today. And Karin, if you could share that slide please.

Thank you. So, as we finish up our welcome segment for the agenda today, I'll invite the chairs of the ECPC Advisory Committees to share a report out on their March meeting. Next, we will engage a guest panel on the topic of protecting early learning spaces against federal immigration enforcement. And I want to thank council member Mayra Alvarez for moderating this segment. After that, we will have a short break and then we'll return again to talk about the May revision of the Governor's budget proposal. We're going to be hearing a summary of key items in the May Revise, and then council members, Andrea Fernandez Mendoza and Donna Sneeringer will ask the council to review and endorse a proposed letter from ECPC to the governor and the legislature that underscores the council's budget priorities for early education. And then finally, we will receive an update on rate reform and then have time at the end for general public comment, including verbal public comment before we adjourn.

I think as you can hear from that, we have a very ambitious agenda full of really significant topics today. So, we will be asking you to all work together to stay on schedule. And then if we do run out of time on a topic, which I realize may be possible on these weighty topics, please don't hesitate to use the chat feature to share your comments there. And with that, I will now turn it to council members, Tonia McMillian and Mary Ignatius, who are the chairs of the ECPC Workforce Advisory Committee and Parent Advisory Committee for a summary of their joint meeting. And good morning, Mary, and seeing if...

- [Report-out of Chairs of Advisory Committees](#)

**Tonia McMillian:**

Tonia.

**Claire Ramsey:**

There we're. Oh, I'm sorry. Your name was spelled wrong. I'm so sorry, Tonia, forgive me. Tonia McMillian. Thank you. I'll turn it over to both of you.

**Tonia McMillian:**

No worries, Claire. Thank you. Hey, Mary. Okay, so welcome everyone. On March 26th, we held a joint meeting of the workforce and the parent advisory committees. And in our meeting, we invited committee members to share what was on their minds, especially during these times of uncertainty. So, we also invited The Children's Partnership to speak with us about federal immigration enforcement and share information and resources about how to protect early learning spaces against federal action. All of this information is posted on the ECPC webpage under our March 26th meeting tab, and I encourage everyone to review those slides and links to those resources. So Mary,

would you like to touch on some of the things from the check-in we did with our committee members?

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yes, thank you, Tonia. As Tonia mentioned, we just wanted an opportunity to bring parents and members of the workforce subcommittee to come together and talk about what was happening and the sense of chaos and uncertainty that's being felt. This was following the wildfires in Southern California and then several of the president's executive orders about immigration enforcement that have really been drivers of the stress on top of the existing stress that these families and child care providers were already experiencing. And these executive orders are profoundly affecting the well-being of parents, especially in families with mixed immigration status. We're witnessing parents who live in constant fear of separation from their children and loved ones. And then these fears are manifesting in daily decisions whether to attend child care, whether to attend school events, whether they should seek out medical care or even go to work.

And as whole children, whole families, we know our children are experiencing this trauma too, and they are worried about their friends not returning to school or their parents being taken away while they're in classrooms and not home, when they get home. And as if these immigration fears wasn't enough, they're joining other marginalized families of color who are impacted by potential cuts to Medicaid and food stamps and Head Start. And so, it's just an onslaught on top of already struggling and living paycheck to paycheck. And then we depend on our child care providers who are there to support children and families through these difficult times but are unable to shoulder the needs by themselves.

And we are asking them to do superhero work and do too much with too little and it's not fair. And then on top of that, those providers are personally under duress because some of them are impacted by immigration enforcement that affects them and their staff. So, we just wanted to create a container where folks could come together, share in that pain, but also talk about hope and talk about what we can do to fight back together. So, I don't know, Tonia, if there's anything you wanted to share from your takeaways from the presentation.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Thank you, Mary. And these are definitely trying times with, Mary, shout out to parent voices for an amazing stand for Children. It was a bright light during a very dark time in this state and in this country. So, the presentation that Mary spoke about from Liza Davis at The Children's Partnership was very helpful. Liza shared resources from the Center for Law and Social Policy, and she walked us through what providers can do to establish a safe space policy in their child care settings. She also shared what providers can do if immigration officials suddenly show up at their sites. So, one thing that our members shared was a concern about dealing with immigration enforcement threats in family child care homes, and I hope our guests today can help provide guidance about that further. And that's my time.

**Karin Bloomer:**

That concludes the welcome segment. And so, at this time, we'll open up the chat feature for the next five minutes as we move to agenda item two, and I believe Mayra Alvarez is the moderator, will take it from here.

## 2. Addressing Federal Immigration Action in Early Learning Spaces

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Excellent. Wonderful. Thank you so much, Karin, can you hear me okay?

**Karin Bloomer:**

Yes, crystal clear.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Great. Okay. Wow, I'm really big on the screen. Okay. Well, this opening segment from the Parent and Workforce Advisory Committee with Mary and Tonia's leadership, I think is a perfect introduction to this next portion of the panel. Because it really is a continuation of that dialogue and a continuation of the Workforce and Parent Advisory Committee's commitment to responding to the needs of the providers and the families that we all seek to serve. As Mary so eloquently outlined and Tonia supported in her comments, this is an uncertain time for so many families in California, and it's also an opportunity for us to respond and to work together to do all we can to support our families in the way we all want to. Again, today's continuation is actually seeking to address many of the comments that came up in that workforce and Parent Advisory Committees around what more can we be doing as a state in today's environment?

And we are able to do that in direct communication with state leaders. So I'm excited that today's conversation will allow us to have that conversation and allow us to hear directly from our council, from members of the public, what gaps continue to exist and what are some innovative ways we can work together to respond in this moment. We are incredibly fortunate to live in California, but we also know that it's not enough. It's not enough to live in California and turn a blind eye to what's happening. So this conversation today is an opportunity to dialogue so that we together can move forward in a better, more responsive ways, in particular by lifting up what communities are experiencing on the ground and having an opportunity to respond to that. So just a quick overview of the time, as our chair mentioned, it is a tight agenda, but one that will hopefully lead us to additional discussions because this conversation is not over with one meeting, right?

So first we're going to hear again from Liza Davis, not the same presentation that she gave at the committees, but a level-setting presentation on the policy landscape around ensuring access to early childhood education for children and immigrant families. After Liza's presentation, we'll hear from a group of state leaders who will each provide short presentations on their respective experiences in their agencies. We are fortunate to have with us representatives from the Attorney General's Office, the California Department of Education, and of course the California Department of Social Services. But really the bulk of our time will be spent in conversation with this council and the public. So we're excited to get started. So for now, I'm going to hand it over to Liza

Davis with The Children's Partnership. Liza serves as our advocacy director for children and immigrant families, and we're looking forward to her comments. Liza, please.

- **Presentation**

**Liza Davis:**

Hi everyone. Good morning. Thank you for having me here today. Let me see. I think I'm going to wait and see if we can get our deck up. Oh, there it is. Thank you so much, Karin. Can we start with the next slide please? All right, so for those of you that I didn't get to meet in March, let me quickly introduce myself. My name's Liza Davis. I'm the advocacy director on children and immigrant families at The Children's Partnership. Before joining TCP, I worked as a children's rights attorney representing children, youth, and families on matters related to education, immigration, and other legal issues. I now have the pleasure of working at The Children's Partnership, which is a California advocacy organization that works to advance child health equity through research policy and community engagement. My presentation today is brought to you by our All In for Safe Schools campaign, which aims to support educators and ECE providers in creating welcoming learning environments, especially for children and immigrant and LGBTQ+ students.

You can sign up for updates and find out more at [allinfor safeschools.org](http://allinfor safeschools.org), and I'll try to drop that link in the chat as well. There it is. Next slide please. All right, so today we're focusing on safe ECE spaces for children and immigrant families. So who is this population? Many of you likely know this population well, so I will not go over all of the data on this slide. However, I do want to point out a few important facts. Nearly half of California's 9 million children are a part of an immigrant family. This means that almost half of the children in California today are children who have at least one parent who was born outside of the United States. Of those children, one in three children in immigrant families are ages five and under. And while the vast majority of California's children are US citizens, one out of every 10 child in California has an undocumented parent.

As you can see from these numbers, children and immigrant families make up a large portion of the children in the ECE provider serve. They're a diverse group with rich and diverse backgrounds that identify with almost every race and ethnicity imaginable. I invite you to visit again [allinfor safeschools.org](http://allinfor safeschools.org). Under our four educator tab, you can view and download our child is a child fact sheets, including this one on children and immigrant families, and our most recent snapshot on children ages zero to three in their families. Next slide, please. All right. Changes in national immigration policy and other executive actions are affecting many families and children in California as you've already heard. As many of you know well, children from low income families and children in immigrant families are feeling an impact on their ability to access early childhood education as a result of mass budget cuts and actions against immigrant communities of color.

There are many changes occurring on the federal level that we've been monitoring over the past several months that have significant implications for children and immigrant families. During its first four months, the administration has made immigration

enforcement a whole of government enterprise. Tapped the military for roles in deportations in border enforcement and reach deep into federal government databases never before access for immigration enforcement purposes such as the IRS database. Given the current pace of activity, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has roughly doubled the number of daily arrests. Over the next few months, via a process known as budget reconciliation, the administration is seeking budget increases for immigration enforcement from Congress by recommending budget cuts on critical programs like Medicaid. If that administration is able to secure more money, those added resources could further expand the reach of their immigration agenda over the next month and years.

There are various efforts across the country pushing back on these proposed cuts to Medicaid. I recommend going to [fightforourhealth.org](https://fightforourhealth.org) if you want to learn more on that. Next slide, please. A critical policy change that has had direct impact on the access to ECE occurred on day one of the Trump administration when it rescinded a policy known as Sensitive Locations Memo, which restricted enforcement activity in certain locations, including early childhood education spaces. The rescission of this long-standing and important policy has triggered a slew of lawsuits and legislative bills across the country to bring back protections to sensitive locations. Due to lawsuits enforcement actions are limited in a near places of worship and ongoing lawsuits are underway to limited enforcement in other locations. Next slide.

There are about five bills we are tracking in California making their way through the legislative process currently that directly address the intersection of schools and immigration enforcement. Of those five bills, one bill includes ECE, so AB 495, also known as the Family Preparedness Plan Act, proposes various changes to law, some of which you could see on this slide, and some of which specifically involve licensed child daycare facilities and their employees. Amongst other things, this bill proposes to prohibit facilities from collecting information about the immigration or citizenship status of children, family members, except for when legally required. It also proposes to require facilities to report any immigration enforcement activity to the state while protecting family privacy. And the bill would require providers exhaust child's emergency contact information if aware that a child's parent or guardian is not available to care for the child. The definition they're using under this bill for child daycare facilities, covers, daycare centers, employer-sponsored child care centers, and family daycare home.

You can view our safe school policy explainer to learn more about the current policy efforts in California and nationally to enhance protection to sensitive locations like schools and ECE spaces. And you can find that explainer again in the [allinfor safeschools.org](https://allinfor safeschools.org) website. Next slide. So, what can you do if an executive action impacts your work? You should speak to your counsel before changing your programming. Absolutely. And avoid anticipatory compliance. So, in other words, don't comply until it's confirmed you must. Reach out to your legal counsel and or look to state leaders for support, clarity, and guidance. Keep in communication with leaders from our California Department of Education, our CDSS, the Governor's Office, and the California Attorney General's Office. Today we'll hear from some of our state leaders who will be able to share more about what they're working on and how they hope to continue to support the ECE workforce during this time.



Next slide, please. What else can ECE professionals do? So, we recommend that early childhood programs and other child-serving organizations develop a plan to safeguard your programs against immigration enforcement, and ensure the safety and privacy of children, parents and staff are protected. So-called safe space policies are rooted in basic security and privacy protocols you already have in place. And importantly, they are not political in nature. Safe space policies reinforce basic constitutional principles. Next slide. Lastly, and you heard a little bit about this, the Center for Law and Social Policy known as CLASP continues to update their guidance on creating safe space policies for early childhood programs. This is the guide that I covered in the March ECPC meeting, and you're able to see a recording of that meeting where we more thoroughly go through the safe space guidance that's provided in that document. The guide is also available in [allinfor safeschools.org](http://allinfor safeschools.org).

I encourage you to read the full report, which includes more details and the template safe space policy. Please note that the guide is geared towards center-based child care and early education programs, but the basic tenets can apply to other child-serving entities as well. We continue to work with CLASP and our other California partners to improve this guide with a goal to make it more inclusive for all ECE providers. So please stay tuned for more to come. We're also available to provide technical assistance if you're interested in developing safe space policies for your program. So, you can reach out to me over email and I'm happy to work with you. My information is on the screen, and now without further ado, I pass it back to you, Mayra, for more on safe ECE spaces from our panel.

- [Panel Discussion](#)

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Thanks so much, Liza, appreciate that overview and appreciate the commitment to continued dialogue and support. Again, this is an uncertain journey, but one in which that we are in together, and for that we're stronger. So appreciate your time and leadership. Now we are going to transition into our panel. I'm excited to have with us again, representatives from various state agencies that are tasked with much of the responsibility with implementing policies to ensure that we have safe and welcoming environments for our children throughout California, all of our children. So again, our panelists will take time to talk about the specific work that they're doing in their agencies. If they have an opportunity to reference any guidance or specific policies from their state entity to protect children in early childhood spaces or other public spaces, we welcome them to please summarize that as part of their presentation and drop any resource links in the chat.

And then we will open it up for discussion with our counsel. So let me briefly introduce our panelists. We have with us Jackie Gonzalez from the Attorney General's Office. Jackie serves as the Advisor for Immigration Affairs to the Attorney General. Jackie will go first in our panel to really lay out the broader picture around the protections available in the state of California. Again, many people across the country look to California for its leadership and much of that is grounded in the work of the Attorney General. So, thank you Jackie for being with us. After Jackie, we will hear from Richard Barrera, who is

Senior Policy Advisor with the State Superintendent's Initiatives Office in the California Department of Education.

Obviously, the Department of Education is a key leader in ensuring that the spaces in which our young children are a part of are offering the welcoming environment that they need. And then finally, we'll hear from Eliana Kaimowitz, who is the Director of the Office of Equity with the Department of Social Services and recognizing that the Department of Social Services is connected in many ways to our early childhood spaces, but also many of the spaces that many of our most marginalized children are part of. We're excited to hear any updates from Eliana in that regard. So, with that, I will first hand it over to Jackie. Welcome.

**Jackie Gonzalez:**

Thank you, Mayra, for the kind introduction, and thank you for the invitation. It's a pleasure to be here. I'm Jackie Gonzalez. I'm Special Assistant Attorney General on immigration matters, and my background is also as an immigration attorney, so really understand and empathize with everything that is happening on the ground now. And in particular, the concerns and the fear being felt, particularly at both private and public agencies serving the immigrant communities. So, thank you to everyone on this call for your work. I just wanted to provide a little bit of a bird's eye view background on where the state of California is at in terms of the protections that it offers across different agencies and what we are tasked with doing. So next slide, I will be discussing SB 54, the California Values Act known more colloquially as our sanctuary law in California. And so, for those of you who are unaware in 2018, California enacted the California Values Act to provide direction to law enforcement and other public agencies on when and how they can interact with federal immigration enforcement authorities.

And back then, the California legislature found and held that immigrants are valuable and essential members of the California community. And that it was really critical that a relationship of trust between California's immigrant community and state and local agencies be preserved to protect public safety. And that trust is threatened when state and local agencies are entangled with immigration enforcement. So, in order to preserve that trust, one of the things that the California Values Act does is it directs the AG's Office, the California Department of Justice, to promulgate model policies and guidance that limit assistance with immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible. So, since that law was enacted, our office has issued lots of model policies and guidance. And I do want to note that for shelters, libraries, health facilities, labor agencies, courthouses, colleges, and schools K through 12, all public schools, health facilities, and courthouses are required under the law to implement model policies, or their substantial equivalent.

Some of the other agencies I listed have the option to do so. And while the bill does not mandate that any private entity adopt these policies, I just want to draw parallels today because I know that there are a variety of different child care settings and they're not mandated to adopt any policy promulgated under SB 54, but they can certainly look to the ones that we issue as guidance. So, due to that law, we did issue guidance shortly after it was enacted in 2018, and then this past December 2024, we updated that guidance. All of our guidance is current as of the date of publication. So, to go back to

an earlier point that was made about the rescission of something called the Sensitive Locations Memo by the federal government, which meant that traditionally we did not see high levels of enforcement at schools, churches, places with children.

That has changed with the change in administration, unfortunately. And so, if there are any references to that in any guidance that you see, just understand that those may be outdated. I think the most important thing for early childhood care providers and anyone using these guidance and doing work at sensitive locations to remember is that even though that particular policy may be rescinded, the Sensitive Locations one, the constitutional rights that we have that protect individuals in their home or in work spaces and in private spaces, those have not changed. The Constitution has not changed, and our rights under there. So specifically, the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable searches, does limit a law enforcement officer's ability to conduct a search, depending on whether a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy in the area searched. So, we know that every child care program space is different, and this is something that I think is discussed a little bit more thoroughly, even in the presentation that Liza mentioned is available for viewing.

So, some of these spaces may be set in the home, others may have a shared entrance or even be located in another space like a larger school or a church, and what I can say is that in general, the more private, the more closed and the more controlled a space is, the higher the likelihood that one can both exercise and preserve Fourth Amendment rights. And so ultimately, Fourth Amendment inquiries are very fact specific, so a court will look at what has happened, and they will define the application and the limitations of any constitutional right. And that's why you will see, I won't go into depth at this, but you will see in different presentations, over and over the suggestion that spaces make an effort to delineate what is public and what is private, either through signage, through locked doors and different physical ways that you can set up a space to ensure that there is privacy for the children in that space and for anyone that may be entering that space.

So again, while there isn't a mandate for early childhood care providers to adopt any policy under the California's Values Act, I wanted to just reference and highlight one of our model policies that I think is most applicable to that setting, which is the K through 12 school model policies. We believe they offer the closest guidance for programs that might be interested in adopting their own policy, and what that model policy guidance does is essentially four main things. And this document is over a hundred pages, so I'm not going to review it in depth as we're supposed to provide a brief presentation, but first, that guidance summarizes some of the laws that govern the collection and protection of student information, specifically immigration status, social security number, enrollment information. We've seen, and I think this is a concern that I imagine early childhood educators share as well as schools, requests for information about particular students. And if you don't have certain information, then you can't share certain information.

So, one of the laws that we have in California is that there are limitations, and this is spelled out under AB 699, and in our guidance around what information we can collect at schools. We don't have a specific law about what can be collected in early childhood education settings, but as was mentioned actually in the prior presentation, there is now

some pending legislation specifically on this issue, so this is an issue that is important to track. Even without legislation, centers can always make choices about what information they choose to collect for enrollment and how they choose to maintain those records.

The second thing or the second point that the model policies and guidance cover is the specific issue of collection and retention of student information. So sometimes, you can require certain things to sign up, copies of certain bills, things that may have sensitive information, but how long you choose to retain that information at your agency will then in turn impact whether if you are asked for that information, you have any record of it. There's also a summary of laws and model policies that instruct school districts on ways to protect against the release of student information, and we think that this could be instructive also for early childhood care centers to take a look at.

And finally, information to school administrators on policies and practices for responding to immigration agents requesting access to school facilities, student information or contact with a student. I think that this last point is the one that causes the most concern, the request for physical access or to speak to a child who may be in a particular setting, and this model policy and guidance goes into great detail about what someone is obligated to respond to in terms of a warrant. So, you may have heard in the news or seen in reporting, agents arriving at certain locations and being refused entry when presented with a specific warrant. And again, I won't go into great detail here, but just to briefly say that there are a variety of different warrants that a law enforcement officer can present to an individual. That can be a very stressful and difficult situation, but compliance is only required for a judicial warrant that's signed by a judge and not an administrative warrant.

And many times, an administrative warrant will be presented by an immigration officer or someone conducting immigration enforcement, and in those instances, compliance or entry is not required. So, our model policies and guidance actually have samples of what these different types of warrants look like. They're in the appendix of this K through 12 model policy. There are also samples of subpoenas. So, subpoenas are requests for written information or documentation, and again, without boring you of all the legal details, just like with warrants, there are differences between a type of subpoena that an agency might receive and the response that's required of that can vary.

Subpoenas can also be challenged in court depending on the type of subpoena that it is, and so I think that one of the messages that the model policies gives and I think is one that would be well-heeded by early childhood centers as well as they develop their own policies is that these are very complex and stressful situations, whether you are being threatened with funding, whether you are being asked for specific information about an individual which implicates privacy concerns, whether you are presented physically with someone at your center, and what we have to fall back on is having a plan in place. And I think that all of our model policies, and specifically the K through 12 one, is ensuring that when any of these instances unfortunately take place, that those who are working on the front lines in any institution or the ones picking up the phone or receiving the correspondence know what to do. Having a point person, if you don't have in-house counsel, which is obviously understandable for many small agencies, especially family home daycares, who is it that can be called?

Like Liza mentioned, there are also, to my knowledge, many nonprofits or different community agencies that are lending technical assistance to entities who want to develop policies, so there are certainly a lot of resources out there for trying to come up with a plan, and I think having a plan is the best that we can do to be prepared. And like I said, the model policies that we have, we have many for courthouses, for health facilities. I think the K through 12 one presents a lot of the similar issues that may arise in child care settings. And again, appreciating that there is a lot of diversity, there are obviously centers, there are in-home family daycares, but the constitutional principles that guide lots of our model policies beyond any California laws that apply are also applicable both to in-home family daycares as well as centers, and so I would really encourage folks to take a look at that guidance. I really appreciate the opportunity to be here today and looking forward to the conversation. Thank you.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Thank you, Jackie. That was a comprehensive overview of the really complex nature of the policies in front of us, but also the underlying importance of safety and security for our families. So, I appreciate your time and your leadership and looking forward to engaging in some questions with the council. Next, we have the opportunity to hear from Richard Barrera with the California Department of Education. Richard, please.

**Richard Barrera:**

Thank you so much, Mayra. Yes, so I as a senior policy advisor to Superintendent Thurman at the California Department of Education, and I also serve on the San Diego Unified School Board. And I'm sitting in a middle school right now that's having a promotion, so I'm going to be very brief and then I'll need to hop off to the middle school promotion ceremony. But I appreciate what Jackie just went over and especially the AG's guidance to K to 12 schools. So our job is to make sure that school district leaders, so there are 1100 school districts in California, individual school leaders, principals and administrators, charter school leaders, leaders at our state-sponsored preschools, child development centers, are aware of the guidance coming from the attorney general's office, what the law actually is in California, and then making sure that we're available to provide support to our school districts and individual school leaders in implementing those policies.

So, we sent a letter out to all of our school district leaders, principals, charters, early childhood leaders right after the inauguration clarifying what Jackie just went over. So, we have the attorney general's guidance. Essentially, what that guidance is for school districts and schools is you should not be sharing information about your students or families to any immigration enforcement entities unless they can produce a judicial warrant as Jackie just talked about, and you certainly should not be allowing access to school campuses, again, to immigration enforcement officials without a judicial warrant.

And as I think a lot of us became aware, the importance of school districts having these policies in place and having staff trained in these policies became apparent last month when we had Department of Homeland Security officials attempt to access two elementary schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Luckily, LAUSD had already passed its board policies, actually had board policies in place from the first

Trump administration, updated those policies, and the staff were trained, so they asked the immigration enforcement officials for judicial warrant. They didn't have them. In fact, they said that they're there to do wellness checks on unaccompanied minors, and the students that they identified were in fact not unaccompanied minors, and so the school officials did not allow access and sent them away. And that's the kind of work that we're wanting to make sure school districts around the state are prepared for.

Unfortunately, in our 1,100 school districts around the state, despite AB 699 that Jackie talked about, we have a real mix of districts that have strong policies in place, have trained staff, to districts that have no policies in place and have no staff training. And so one of the things that Superintendent Thurman is sponsoring is SB48, which is authored by Senator Lena Gonzalez, which would require all school districts, again, to establish and implement policies that restrict access to information and access to school campuses to immigration enforcement officials.

Maybe this week or early next week, we're going to get another letter out to all of our school districts and school leaders clarifying the threat of the Trump administration around sanctuary jurisdictions. So, the Trump administration issued an executive order in late April which claims that it will be investigating any state or local agencies that are, quote unquote, "impeding federal immigration enforcement," and that depending on those investigations by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, funds could be withheld, federal funds to public agencies. So the letter that we're about to send out to all of our district and school leaders again clarifies that the kinds of policies that we saw put into place in Los Angeles Unified are exactly what school districts should be doing, should be implementing, that it's consistent with California Law AB 699, the California Values Act, and that these threats of withholding federal funding to, quote unquote, "sanctuary jurisdictions," were thrown out by courts during the first Trump administration. And recently, a federal judge also found that the federal government cannot withhold federal funding, in our case, for schools, based on this notion of a sanctuary jurisdiction.

So, our job is, again, to take the great work from the attorney General's office, make sure that school districts and school leaders understand that that is in fact the law, and that there are policies and practices that can be put into place that will protect our kids, and so we're going to continue to maintain our active partnership with our school districts. We've got a hotline that school leaders and school district leaders can call into for any questions or any issues that come up, and so our job, again, is to make sure that all of our school districts and school leaders are supporting our students under California law.

And I'm going to now need to jump off to this middle school promotion, Mayra, so thank you so much.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Couldn't think of a better reason, Richard, for you to jump off, so enjoy that promotion. Looking forward to being in community with you to talk about all of the ways in which this work connects to our student well-being. Thank you.

**Richard Barrera:**

Thank you so much.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Moving on, we're going to hear from Eliana Kaimowitz, the director of the Office of Equity with CDSS. Please, Eliana, take it from here. And I hope I pronounced your name right. Please correct me if I'm wrong.

**Eliana Kaimowitz:**

That's fine. My name is Eliana Kaimowitz. You pronounced it correctly. I also have a slide that hopefully will come up soon but thank you so much for inviting me to this space. This is my first time with you all. I am also joined this morning by our chief deputy, Claire Ramsey, who works with the Community Care Licensing Division, as well as Lupe Jaime-Mileham, our Child Care Program deputy director. It really is a pleasure to be here. As part of my role at the California Department of Social Services, I oversee the Immigrant integration branch, so we do work in partnership with our other programs across the department to lift up the needs of many of our immigrant communities. And we know right now is a time where there are some unprecedented things happening. People keep repeating that word, but it really is true, and I know folks are looking for some very, very clear guidance, which is sometimes hard to come by because the situations unfolding in some cases are very new and specific.

Next slide please. I do want to share from our space, a lot of what we are doing is really collecting the information from partners like the Children's Partnership, a lot of the slide that Liza Davis presented, and trying to put that out and share out the information also from the attorney general's office to our providers and our spaces. So, we are in the process of issuing a provider information notice, what we call a PIN. That will come from the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and our child care program, and this will be really focused on guidance on providing care to children of immigrant families.

A lot of what is in that guidance is the information that Eliza shared this morning, about the general topics on immigration status collection and how actually, that's not required by our child care program, to collect that information. To really think about the needs of immigrant families, the wonderful overview of how many of our families are immigrant or living in mixed status families with people who are immigrants, and the trauma and fear that those communities are experiencing and how we can really try to create welcoming environments and sharing information with people.

One of the things that we have really seen is that misinformation is creating a lot of fear, so people are really looking for reliable sources of information and where they can go to get referrals to people that are trusted. And so child care spaces, early childhood development centers, all of you can be that resource for families, and I think the other really key component here is the language access piece. A lot of these families are looking for that information and need it to be accessible to them in the language that they speak, and so that's another key role that we can all serve, in getting people information in their preferred language.

Another piece that the guidance is really going to focus on is reiterating some of the points about how to have policies in place that maintain a safe and secure child care

environment, whether it's in the collection of information or really thinking through planning ahead, as Jackie said, what would you do if law enforcement of any kind, but especially immigration enforcement comes? What are we doing, and how we encourage families also to plan ahead, because that's really, really important. One of the key pieces we've seen in both the education school spaces as well as early child care is really having that backup plan of who can come pick up a child if there is an emergency or if there is any type of immigration enforcement activity.

The guidance is also going to discuss, we are a licensing entity so that we do have people coming out to visit, and we don't want, again, people to be fearful, so how to recognize when it's an actual licensing visit and not another type of law enforcement visit. And then lastly, just collecting a list of information or resources to share with the community and with you all so you know where to look for trusted information. Next slide please.

So really, the overview, the takeaways from all of this, to hopefully a bit repeat myself because I think we all are probably going to soak in this information the more we hear it, but there is no requirement to collect immigration status information from the applicant of a licensure or a family or a child in enrollment. Some, of course, benefit programs do require these type of things, so it's very specific if it's another program, but we are not requiring it, so to know that and make your choices based on that.

And then really, that need to connect with your families. And I think this is the tricky part. While we don't require people to collect that information status, it is important to talk about these things with the families because they may have special fears. We had a different webinar with some social workers giving some tips on how to ask people and explain to them why you might be asking about their immigration status to be able to support them. There is a way, and a very respectful and sensitive way, to understand what fears families might be experiencing, and many child providers have very close relationships with these families, so knowing that information sometimes can help you provide resources.

But again, no requirement to collect that information, and on our end, no need to collect all of that sensitive documentation perhaps that Jackie discussed and you don't want to have if people come asking for it. To look at your policies very closely in terms of collection of information and emergency plans and what happens in your spaces, and training of staff for how to respond. And again, to share the resources that we are all discussing here with the families and with others who are really looking for accurate information. Last slide, please.

The other thing that I wanted to lift up from our role here at the Department of Social Services is that within our immigrant integration branch, we do fund a broad network of nonprofit organizations who provide free immigration legal services across California. And this can be a really key resource to point families to who might have questions about their immigration status, what avenues they might have for regularization or what immigration benefits they might be able to apply for, or even to understand what risk they might be in for removal or deportation.

So, we, again, fund a whole array of providers across the state. They do things from know your rights presentations to legal consultations, help people apply for what they may be eligible for, and do representation in court proceedings, administrative



proceedings, including deportation defense, which unfortunately is a service in very, very high demand. So, I did put some links here for our department where you can find things in your local areas. There are more organizations entering this space to some degree, and not just our nonprofit organizations but also the private bar. I think there's a lot of people who are being very supportive in this environment, but it is really, really important for people to vet their immigration service provider.

Another thing the attorney general's office does well that Jackie may not have mentioned is that you can look on an attorney locator to see if someone is actually a licensed attorney in California. Immigration attorneys actually can be licensed anywhere in the country and still serve as immigration attorneys, but we do want to be really careful about people we are referring folks to for immigration legal services because we have seen people take advantage of the real strong need for immigration information. And so, we want people to go to vetted, qualified immigration legal service providers. That's really, really important. And the saying is if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. We don't want people paying a lot of money to apply for a benefit that may not exist. So really, really encouraging folks who are in these vulnerable situations, these families looking for assistance, to make sure that the legal information that they're getting is high quality.

So, I will leave it there since a lot has been already covered, and happy to answer any questions.

- [Council Discussion](#)

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Thanks so much, Eliana. I really appreciate your presentation, and especially that flag on just ensuring we're being extra careful in these times where too many people are taking advantage of us. We have those resources, so appreciate you highlighting that, Eliana.

Per usual, we are slightly behind schedule, so I'm going to jump in with the first question, but I'm going to encourage our council members to drop any questions that you have for our panelists, Jackie Gonzalez with the Attorney General's Office or Eliana Kaimowitz with the Department of Social services, into the chat. I'm sure folks have a lot of questions but just recognizing the limited time that we have.

A kickoff question that has come up that both reflects the discussion that came up at the Parent and Workforce Advisory Committees, but also in the discussions that we've been having as a council, is to really ground ourselves in the idea that many of us as advocates are looking to our agencies to work together, to collaborate, to break down the silos as much as possible at the state level. That's why this Early Childhood Policy Council was created, to create that whole child agenda, recognizing families don't leave single issue lives. Can each of you speak or can one of you speak to how state entities are working together to really provide this comprehensive, coherent framework of guidance to providers and families? And if you're not or if you see that as a shortcoming, we'd love to hear any reflections on the opportunities we have moving forward to be more streamlined across our state agencies.

**Eliana Kaimowitz:**

I am happy to start. I would just say that we have definitely seen the attorney general's office as the lead lawyer in this area. When we're looking at model policies or the interpretation of SB54, our legal guidance as a state, that is the framework that we are taking for our guidance. And I think understanding that there are differences in the local community and people may feel differently about the guidance, but that is our law in our state and that is the framework, and so we have been trying to really emphasize and have people look to those model policies and think about how those model policies might apply to the early childhood space. So, I think there is some hierarchy within state government of who interprets the law and how the rest of us share that information out, but we also probably work with a lot of the same immigration legal services organizations and a lot of the same experts in the field.

So, I think in California, I think we are lucky in that we have a set of trusted community based organizations and advocates that we all point to as being the source of information that we can all go to. I think we all work on different things, right? Licensing is different than creating model policies or setting up programming for child care programs, but I think at least here in California, there's a lot of respect and I wouldn't say a lot of concern with what the other entities are doing, because hopefully it all is in alignment for the same cause.

**Jackie Gonzalez:**

Yes, I would agree with Eliana's comments, and she referenced also in the presentation, just all the funding, for example, that goes out to legal service providers across the state. And I think there's a lot of synergy, I think because the attorney general's office obviously puts out these model policies and has been leading a lot of litigation on some of the issues that are arising now in the context of the federal administration. We do receive a lot of inquiries that are really best directed at a different agency, even though we may sometimes be the first entry point, and we do really make an effort to make sure that families, individuals, whoever is coming to us is directed to the appropriate resource, whether it's CDSS, or even we do now have I think reference to CDSS on our website and the different entities that they fund to make sure.

Because a lot of times, people want... Unfortunately, and even in the guidance we provide, it's guidance, but it really is important, we always say, to consult with individual legal counsel for whatever you're adopting for your own agency as a policy, and then for individuals who have specific questions about their situation. Unfortunately, we do represent the interests of all Californians, but we can't get at that granular level of individual advice or consultation, and I think that so many state agencies, including CDSS through its administration of grants to nonprofits, there's a host of ways that we work together to try to ultimately provide the individual with the support that they need. I don't know if that helps to address your question, but I think we are intentionally trying to connect those dots.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Absolutely.

**Eliana Kaimowitz:**

One more example I would just highlight that came to mind is we are working on supporting regional coordination, regional coordination to support families in the aftermath of immigration enforcement. And in that effort, we have been working with First 5 California as they have a set of resources for families with young children that we are going to tap into to support a family if the breadwinner for whatever reason is removed. And so, there's just a variety of different ways that if we can all... That we're looking to identify who is serving the immigrant community and bringing them together at a regional level and having them be coordinated. That is one of our goals for the next couple of years, to really be able to support families in a more holistic way.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Deeply appreciate that, Eliana. Obviously highlighting the need to be protective and offer these welcoming spaces, and also recognizing that, as Mary mentioned in her opening comments, the trauma is happening now, and how are we responding and supporting families with their mental health and overall well-being? What does that look like? So, appreciate the connection of that.

Looking at the chat, there was a question, and Jackie, I'm going to direct this at you. Recognizing that, you referenced this in your presentation, that there's active legislation moving forward to potentially expand protective policies into child care settings, and there seems to be some back and forth. I think advocates are following this very carefully, like language getting taken out and getting put elsewhere and then actually kick the can down the road. And curious if you can speak to recognizing, I'm sure you're limited in what you can say, but any sort of administrative support that you want to talk about. And I also want to just open it up to Andrea if she has anything she wants to add to that question since she outlined her comments in the chat.

**Jackie Gonzalez:**

Yes, what I can say is we certainly are aware of a slew of legislation, not just in the sensitive locations and protective area space, but I think writ large on immigration in the legislature. We don't comment on pending legislation. We are aware of it and our office's role is to provide technical assistance. As some people may be aware, some people may not be aware, when you legislate around the issue of immigration, it can be very technical and it can implicate constitutional issues about the limits of what the state can and cannot do, so we are often asked to provide technical assistance in that sphere. But beyond that, I have my own personal thoughts about legislation, but our office doesn't comment on pending legislation.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

May I follow up with, are you aware of the rationale of why child care centers and family child care homes were not included in the space? Because both AB49 and SB48 include K-12. We equally, most of them are state funded or receive some sort of state subsidies, either direct contract or through a network or a voucher. And so, I'm trying to understand the rationale of why they were not included and how we can advocate around making sure they're included because they also need those same protections.

**Jackie Gonzalez:**

Yes, I would say that that question is best directed to the authors of those two specific bills. As Mayra mentioned, bills begin one way, they change, and the specific reason why a bill changes is really the person with the best knowledge of that is the author of that piece of legislation. So, engaging with your local elected, even if it's not your local elected official, but if someone is working on a piece of legislation that's important to you, I think it's always important to voice that concern and engage.

And a lot of times... I used to be an advocate. Sometimes you raise concerns or issues that perhaps an author isn't aware of, and that's a critical and important part of the legislative process. But yes, I would have to say unless my colleague, I doubt, but unless Eliana wants to comment, I think it's best to direct those inquiries to those offices.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Thanks, Jackie. I think that highlights the power of this group and the advocacy, right? I know a lot of folks on this screen are actively reaching out to those offices to try and figure out what more can be done, so appreciate that. I also see a question from Donna. Donna, I can read your question, but I also want to open it up if you want to ask this question around data collection requirements.

**Donna Sneeringer:**

Sure. I'm happy to answer it. So, I know Eliana, you mentioned that some of the benefit-oriented programs do require us to gather information that is of a personal nature. I'm wondering if the department has considered having the agencies just verify rather than retain. So, if a family just brings and shows us the documentation and we do a verification of it rather than us having to keep it in the file, then we have less personal information, which could put families at risk should one of our organizations be called upon to share information on families, which is entirely possible because of our blend of federal and state funding.

**Eliana Kaimowitz:**

That's a great question. I will say that we have been looking at data collection across the board, trying to think about what is needed and what may not be needed. And we also have federal requirements for certain documentation. That there is more scrutiny on California, on our federally funded programs. And so, we are also trying to comply with those requirements, but I think that that is a good highlight for us to take back and think about how can we do both in a way that is more protective. And so, I would just say, Donna, if you have any great ideas, we are always open to hearing them because-

**Donna Sneeringer:**

Seems like there might be a way we could do a verification process without having to retain. So yes, I'd be happy to continue to talk to the department about what might work. But I just know as a subsidized child care entity, how much personal information we have about families, and it is an incredibly difficult responsibility to have that much information on hand. And I don't know necessarily what our rights are as a contractor of

the state and federal government and what we do and don't have to share. So however we could be in dialogue, I think it would be really helpful.

**Eliana Kaimowitz:**

Thank you for lifting that up, but I know Lupe is on the call, so we will definitely follow up with that.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Thanks, Donna. It's interesting. These are also questions, it all comes back to legal protections, right Jackie? No pressure. But these questions around privacy, these questions around immigration status, everybody needs more legal support. There's not enough legal guidance during these times. So, appreciate, again, the partnership between CDSS and the Attorney General and the Attorney General's leadership. Mary, please.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Hi everyone. I think it's more of a comment. I think what's difficult about these conversations is that it just feels like the child care industry is always an afterthought and it's not just an automatic, as we would talk about schools, we would talk about child care. Especially when we're talking about the protection of our youngest and most vulnerable infants and toddlers and preschoolers and children.

And so, it's so hard to feel like you have to fight to get into legislation that is so common sense. Especially when you might have a two-year-old Miren's Family Child Care while she also has an older child in San Diego Unified. We keep doing the same thing over and over again, which is to silo and split that families don't operate like that, and so they're looking to our government to make good laws and provide good guidance that protects everyone. And it's like we just do it to ourselves for no reason.

So, I think that's the comment. And whether it's the families facing the fires in Southern California or immigration enforcement like emergency preparedness, disaster relief, child care. The pandemics told us child care is essential, and we keep falling. We're still not. So, anything that, if there's anything future coming out, if there's any conversations that you are having with authors, with guidance, just automatically put child care in there because the best practices feels like it's just not enough.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Appreciate that. Thanks Mary, appreciate that and I deeply appreciate the leadership of this council and of this public that's with us for consistently elevating the need to be in the room to be at the table. And Mary in particular, your leadership and parent voices leadership, so thank you so much.

I see two comments from our council members and then we'll open up the chat and then we'll wrap up recognizing we are limited in time. And again, I want to emphasize this is a continuing conversation, so look forward to continuing that and continuing to elevate the importance of this issue to Mary's comments. Zoila and then Robin. Zoila, please. Okay.

**Zoila Carolina Toma:**

I have so much, but I will be. Thank you very much. I'll try to be quick. I value the information that it was shared today, right? I emphasize about sharing and educating our community about the contribution of immigrants here. However, while you're showing the data that composes our children is vital, we must also be careful with backing it up with clear evidence like the contribution of families. Without that context, this information can be misrepresented, making it seem as these children are simply living off welfare and draining the system. And that is far from the truth.

I would like to take it a little bit further, highlight the contribution both undocumented and documented immigrants because misinformation is being spread across the country, and sadly, some of our own communities believe it or remain silent. We need to push back with facts, not just defend, but to educate our state [inaudible] because of immigrant labor, leadership, business and families.

Also, it is important to remember we the people have the power to make change. We are the ones who vote and put representatives in position of power. When those leaders in ignore the law, these misdata and fail to serve for all of us, including immigrants, we have the responsibility to speak up, hold them accountable, and replace them if needed. Let us use our voice and platform and our influence to inform, empower, and lift. California success is not an accident. It is built on diversity, inclusion, and the tireless work of all people, especially those who are often left out of the narrative.

I also want to say I love the steps being taken to keep our children safe. It truly matters, but the reality is that our children will never be safe unless father steps are taken to remove those in power who do not care to protect them. Policies alone are not enough if those responsible for enforcing them are indifferent, or worse, actively working against the well-being of our families. Real safe come from leaders who act with courage, compassion, and integrity. I had to read my notes. Thank you.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

No, Zoila, thank you for that sermon. That was incredible, really highlighting the importance of using our voice, connecting it to civic engagement and demanding more from our elected officials. Yes, I think that was an incredible message and so powerful. Thank you. Robin, hard act to follow.

**Robin Layton:**

Yes

**Mayra Alvarez:**

But go for it.

**Robin Layton:**

Really, I want to uplift what Mary said, that frustration, it's just ongoing about us being an afterthought. And I hope that, first of all, I appreciate the presentation, and I hope that somehow all of these comments can get back to Richard Barrera. And let him know that when he does these presentations, he needs to really let people know that he is

really speaking about K-12. So, it was a little misleading when he talked about preschool and all that. He's talking about preschool that belonged to K-12. And so if he understands the differences, which I think he does, but it was for the people out there, some of the things he said, it's not the case for child care, which Jackie helped us understand.

So, I hope that these comments can get back to him, and once legislation is passed, going back to the author, I think the Department of Education can help with this and Department of Social Services, but it's just really frustrating and just hopefully somebody can get back to him to understand who the audience was today. Thank you.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Absolutely, Robin, thank you for that. And looking to the team, Karin and team particularly to relay these comments and takeaways. I see one final comment from Deborah, so we want to hear from Deborah and then we'll wrap this up. So Deborah, please?

**Deborah Corley-Marzett:**

Yes, real quick. Thank you. Good morning everyone. Just real quick, just two questions and a comment. To DSS, do you have a frequently asked question on your website under immigration to where providers and parents can go to if they have any questions? So I would like to know if you have that. The second one is, thank you for that, Mary also. Because when Richard mentioned, he talked about protecting our kids, and my thought is that should mean all kids, not just again, K through 12, but all kids. So that point being made to legislatures, when you are creating these policies, you need to remember where all kids are at, where they are all at. That makes a difference. They're not just in one place to be protected, they're everywhere to be protected. And child care is important and does need to be protected. That's all I had to say. Thank you. But DSS, if you can answer that question, I would appreciate it.

**Eliana Kaimowitz:**

Yes, thank you Deborah. We have actually not yet even issued the PIN, the Provider Information Notice, so that will be posted. I think once that is posted and potentially we do receive more questions, we're happy to put up an FAQ or some way to respond to people's questions. I think what is hard is that oftentimes, like Jackie said, people are looking for more individualized, like what do I do in my situation? What immigration protections do I have? And some of those questions really aren't applicable to everyone. There's a lot of very individual situations depending on if you're in your own home or if you're in a center. I think there's a lot of variation.

So sometimes frequently asked questions are hard to make applicable to everyone, but we will definitely take back the request to have a place to ask more questions and to provide more guidance. This is our first step. Our first step is to put out something. And of course it may not be comprehensive, and it may not address all the questions. So definitely, again, very open and looking forward to receiving feedback about what else we should be putting out.

**Deborah Corley-Marzett:**

And letting providers know once you put the PIN out, that their voices are ready to be heard and supported with DSS there. Thank you.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Thank you Deborah, and thanks Eliana. Well, huge deep appreciation to the council for this engaging discussion as well as to our state agency partners, Eliana and Jackie, for being with us in this. You all are hearing direct feedback from folks on the ground and incredible leaders in our communities, so appreciate the ongoing dialogue that this opportunity creates.

Just a couple of key takeaways. One, first and foremost is the need to really include child care from the get-go. In thinking about policies and programs and what we're doing to improve the safety and well-being of our children, particularly children and immigrant families. The continued collaboration across agencies and encouraging that collaboration, potentially even these developments of FAQs. I will say at least in when public charge was a critical topic of concern, it was a topic of debate constantly, but one in which HHS set out a set of FAQs to be proactive that I think really resonated well with the community in providing that clarity. So again, where we can get lessons learned from previous attempts, I think we can build on that.

And then finally, really making sure that there's an opportunity to understand the differences that children in child care settings and early learning settings need as opposed to K through 12 and making sure that that's not lost on our agency leaders. Again, deep appreciation to this council and to our state agency partners and looking forward to continuing this conversation as we go forward in this tough work together. Thank you. With that, I will hand it over to our chair.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Yes, thank you. Mayra. Just first, actually, huge thank you to Mayra who has really led on this topic and brought this to us here today. So thank you and I see all that appreciation on the video, so thank you Mayra. And really thank you to Lisa, Jackie, Richard, and Eliana for your presentations. It was so little time, but so much valuable information and we really appreciate you being here with us today. And as I think was really reinforced over and over again, just the importance of child care and early education to lives of all our children and how important the safety of those children and their families are to our communities. And so just the ways in which we can support that safety and that information, education, knowledge, how important that all is. So, thank you all.

Thank you to the Council for the rich questions, comments, discussion. We are actually taking a break in this meeting this time. That's a new little thing. Water, coffee, restroom break, bio break. But we are running a little late. So, we had originally hoped for a 10-minute break, we're going to shorten it to a six-minute break. So, we will be back at 10:30. But with that, I will turn it over to Karin because we are during that break, going to open the chat up for public comment. So, I'll turn it to Karin for that.

**Karin Bloomer:**



Thank you so much Chair Ramsey. Yes, we will open up the chat feature now for members of the public to provide written comment for the duration of our break, and we will be back here at 10:31 sharp with cameras back on. If you don't mind, we will see you then. Thank you.

- Break

**Karin Bloomer:**

10:31. So I just want to welcome everyone back and thank you in advance for putting your cameras back on. I'll turn it back to the Chair.

### 3. May Revise Budget Updates and Consideration of ECPC Budget Letter

- Presentation

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thank you, Karin. And I hope that break was refreshing for all of us, even though I can see everybody getting back into their seats right at the right moment. Well, thank you again for a great discussion and great presentations before the break.

And now we're actually going to turn to another extremely relevant and important topic. The Governors May Revise that came out on May 14th, and that obviously now was the subject of hearings and the legislature, and the governors will be working together to come up with a final budget by the end of June.

So, with this, we want to turn it over to Scott Graves, who's the budget director at the California Budget and Policy Center. We really want to thank Scott for being here today to do an overview of some of the major provisions in the budget. And then after Scott speaks, we will be having council members, Andrea Fernandez Mendoza and Donna Sneeringer reviewing their proposed council letter advising on the budget priority. So we'll have both the presentation and then the discussion about the letter. And with that, welcome to Scott and thank you again for being here to present.

**Scott Graves:**

Yes, hi, Claire. Thank you. Are you able to hear me all right?

**Karin Bloomer:**

Yes.

**Scott Graves:**

Okay, awesome. And thank you to Karin or whoever is going to be advancing my slides for me. So thank you so much for inviting the Budget Center to be part of this meeting. I wanted to say upfront that my colleagues who focus on Early Care and Education, Laura Pryor and Eric Saucedo are both out today. They had some conflicts. That's why you're seeing me.

While I did cover Early Care and Education during my first 10 years with the Budget Center, it's been about a decade since I've been our ECE expert, so I'm coming to you

not as the expert in this policy space. In fact, I'm sure a lot of you are more familiar with the proposals in the May revision at this point that affect your policies and programs than I may be.

But what I want to do, if we go to the next slide, Karin asked me to provide some broad context around the May revision just to do some level setting to make sure we're all on the same page about expectations within the May revision for the economy and for revenues. Then I also just want to hit some of the proposals in the Governor's revised budget that directly affect families with young children. Not claiming we're hitting all of them, but a few of the top lines there. And then I just want to go over some of the next steps in the state budget process. I know many of you are intimately familiar with the state budget process. For others of you, it may be a little newer or maybe you haven't gone through the entire process as many times as your colleagues. And so, a refresher may be helpful, and then I'll close out with some budget center resources. So, let's go to the next slide.

This is where I want to provide I some context for you about the May revision, next slide, which was released a little over two weeks ago. So the first thing to know is that sadly, this is not one of those classic surplus years where the governor comes out and announces on May 14th, we have more money than we know what to do with in the state of California. This is one of those years where the governor said you know what? Things have changed since January. Some of you may recall that in January, the governor was estimating that the budget was roughly balanced, although that took into account a \$7 billion withdrawal from our rainy day fund, which is still part of the governor's package for the upcoming fiscal year.

But the governor basically said we're facing a seven and a half billion dollar deficit, at least according to the administration's revenue and spending estimate. So, let's get straight why things shifted and why we're facing a deficit. The number one reason is that President Trump's chaotic economic policies, including the tariffs, have really turned economic expectations upside down in California. We've all seen a gyrating stock market, there's a lot of concerns about what the on again/off again tariff policy means for business investment decisions, for economic growth, for employment, not just tomorrow, but in the years to come. So, there's a lot of uncertainty and that has dampened the revenue outlook, particularly the administration's numbers. So basically, revenues are down.

As you know, your programs rely on general fund dollars. When general fund revenues are down, that is not a great place to be because that means there's less money to go around, at least with respect to the current tax system and what we expect it to generate. It's also important to acknowledge though that state spending is also higher. So that's the other side of the coin, right? You have the revenue side, and you have the spending side. Spending is billions of dollars higher at this point than the administration was estimating just a few months ago.

And if you've been reading the news headlines like I'm sure most or all of you have been, all of it, not all of it, but a good chunk of that is attributable to higher than expected healthcare spending, particularly in our state's Medi-Cal program, which is our joint Medicaid program that we operate with the federal government, healthcare for low-income families and individuals in this state.

So, we have impacts on the revenue side, they're lower. Impacts on the spending side higher. When you add those two things together, you end up with us having to close a deficit, at least according to the governor's numbers for the fiscal year that starts on July 1st.

Now let me on the next slide, address a concern some of you may have. You keep hearing me, Scott, talk about a seven and a half billion dollars deficit. Some of you may be asking didn't the governor say we have a \$12 billion shortfall. Why is Scott talking about a \$7.5 billion shortfall? The reason is that the governor's shortfall number includes his proposal to build up our state's discretionary reserve. That's not the big constitutional rainy day fund some of you may know a lot about, this is a leftover money in the general fund. How much do we want to set aside just in case we might need it sometime during the next fiscal year?

The governor is proposing to build up that discretionary reserve to 4.5 billion. Does it have to be 4.5 billion? No, that's an arbitrary number. It could be higher; it could be even lower. It could be 2 billion. So, if the governor decided to have a discretionary reserve of 2 billion, that would be 2.5 billion in budget solutions that would not be needed to close the "shortfall."

So important thing to remember, there is a deficit. In order to get the budget balanced, we need seven and a half billion dollars in "solutions", right? If we want to build a discretionary reserve, we need additional solutions. Beyond that, the governor is proposing four and a half billion. It does not have to be four and a half billion. That is a policy choice that the legislature and governor are going to need to agree on for the upcoming fiscal year. Okay, next slide.

So, to say this in a slightly different way. The governor wants to close the deficit and he also wants to build this \$4.5 billion cash cushion. In order to do that, I think a lot of the term of art in Sacramento is "solutions." The governor needs to propose solutions to address this overall shortfall. His solutions, and come almost entirely from spending cuts, delays and cost shifts, not much in the way of revenues in the governor's proposal.

So, on the next slide, this donut chart lays this out for you. The darker blue portion is showing you the share of solutions in the governor's plan that come from cuts, delays and other spending solutions. There are cost shifts, that's the lighter version, and then lighter part of the chart, that pinkish small part of the chart, those are the governor's revenue increases. Relatively small. So, I think it's fair to say that the governor's solutions are coming disproportionately from the spending side of the budget and not really tapping into the state's ability to draw on revenue increases in order to help balance the budget. So, kind of out of whack if the goal here is to have a balanced solution to addressing the deficit in the coming fiscal year.

Okay, next slide. So now I wanted to move to some of the May revision proposals that are affecting families with children. This first slide after this, this is stuff I'm sure you're all very familiar with, much more than I am. So, I'm just highlighting here some things that I believe you already know well. First, we haven't added any new child care slots for a couple of fiscal years, and the governor is now saying let's continue this expansion to this 200,000 goal after I've left office in 2027, right?

So, it's kicking that can down the road another couple of fiscal years, at least that's the way the governor is outlining the approach here. And I think all of you are aware of, I hope, of our research showing that only about one in seven kids who are eligible for DSS child care programs or actually enrolled, so there's a huge need. And under the governor's May revision that need would not be further met, at least for another couple of years.

Child care rate reform is also a big thing that's going on. Some of you may be in more involved in that than others. That is moving forward, as I understand it, at a glacial pace. There are key decisions related to rate structure and funding and implementation that still need to be made. And there's this July 1st, 2025, deadline. I would love to hear a conversation if we had time about where that is all going or what some of you may think about that. But basically, according to my conversation I had with my colleague Laura, there's just a lot of uncertainty around the rate structure proposals and the timeline, and that's affecting the move toward a more fair rate structure for child care providers.

And then finally, another thing you're all familiar with, the governor continues to prioritize the rollout of transitional kindergarten. The expectation is that is fully implemented in the coming fiscal year with all children this year, as long as they've turned four, becoming eligible for that program. And also, a goal of class size reductions from 1 to 12 down to 1 to 10.

So that's a very high level on that policy space. I wanted to switch now to some of the human services programs, particularly those affecting foster youth. These may be things you haven't heard as much about. So first, for the Hope Children Trust Account program, those are what's known as baby bonds. Those were set up within the last couple of years. The governor is proposing to take \$50 million general fund back that was set aside in a prior budget in order to help build up these trust accounts that foster kids today can access. Hopefully those accounts will grow over time and then kids when they become adults, can access them to help build wealth and close the racial wealth gap. So, there's a \$50 million proposed cut there.

The Emergency Child Care Bridge program, which helps foster care families find stable child care. As many of you know, I'm sure there's a proposal to cut over 40 million there over a couple of fiscal years and then continue that as an ongoing cut. And then the Family Urgent Response System, which is another program that was set up in the last couple of years to help foster care families during situations of instability. The governor wants to make a cut of 13 million here that would take effect in the coming fiscal year and would continue ongoing.

So those are some proposals in the foster youth space. I wanted to have one more slide here that focuses on an area that many of you may not be as familiar with. Next slide, which is-

**Karin Bloomer:**

Sorry Scott, it won't advance, so I'll keep working on it.

**Scott Graves:**

Oh, okay. All right. I will do this from memory. Oh, there we go.

So In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). This is a program that allows people with disabilities to remain safely in their own homes, in their own communities. There are quite a number of children who are assisted through this program. The providers in this program don't get paid a lot. This is basically a county run program. They negotiate wages at the county level, and as a result of a change made about a decade ago, providers can work up to 66 or in some cases 70 hours per week, and they receive overtime pay for each hour beyond 40. Now, that obviously is a lot, but it is also these hours of overtime pay that help a lot of these providers actually make ends meet, be able to pay their bills given how low their pay is.

The governor is saying right now, let's take this overtime cap down from 66 to 50. That would save the state, maybe 700 billion somewhere in there. That's a big savings number there. Ongoing, the thing to remember about this though is that is actually a pay cut to providers. And there are many families who rely on IHSS funding in order to help them make ends meet as they care for their own children with disabilities, many parents putting in long hours. And IHSS is really what is helping them be able to pay the bills while they are meeting their children's needs. This would require families in order to be cut off at 50 hours, and if they want to go beyond that with a paid provider, they would have to find someone else in the IHSS program to be able to come in and provide those hours. That would be challenging in many cases. So that's one that's kind of flown under the radar, but it would have an impact on families with young children if the legislature does approve the governor's proposal to cap IHSS overtime hours at 50. Okay. Oh, the slides are advancing. Okay, good.

So, on the next slide, I just wanted to outline the next steps in the state budget process. So right now, we're in that quiet period after the mayor revision has been released. And a lot of the negotiations now have gone sort of behind the scenes as the Assembly and Senate are trying to get on the same page regarding their unified approach to the budget bill which per the state constitution has to be passed on or before June 15th. I wanted to note that one year ago today, the legislature released or unveiled their unified budget plan. That is not expected to happen today.

They seem to be farther apart than they have been over the last few years. So, it's taking longer for the Assembly and Senate to actually get on the same page about what their budget plan will be and what they're going to advance as they move toward that June 15th deadline. However, all expectations is that there will be a budget bill. They are not going to miss the June 15th deadline, so the question is when are they actually going to unveil their plan? There are also expectations that because of all the uncertainty at the federal level and whether Congress and the president are going to be able to make massive cuts to Medicaid, SNAP food assistance and other programs which would have a major impact on.

Californians and of course on the state budget, there's some expectation that this may be more of a kind of holding budget where there may not be a lot going on in terms of significant changes, just knowing that they're going to need to come back later in the summer and potentially in the fall in order to close any significant gaps that may open up in the state budget as a result of any of the changes that get made. So even without all the federal chaos right now and the potential for major reductions, the legislature and governor, I think as many of you know, always come back in August and take another

crack at the state budget, which they approved just a couple of months before. So we can expect them to come back in August.

They will make changes to spending. There will be new trailer bills, new policy proposals, there will be genuine cleanup. Mistakes get made. They're working fast. All of that will happen in August. The main question is, are they also going to be dealing with the ramifications of major cuts to programs like Medicaid and SNAP and others? Which they would then need to make a determination around the state's approach to trying to close the gap. And at that point, they may also need to get serious about considering revenue increases.

That is not necessarily something they're going to be doing in June, but if there are deep cuts to federal funding, policymakers are going to have to look at raising state revenues as at least a solution to help backfill any lost federal funding in order to avoid or at least mitigate the harm from significant federal cuts. So we're going to be hearing about the state budget for the next few weeks. We're also going to hear about it in August, in September, possibly in the fall if there's a special session called. And then of course again in January when the governor will release his plan for the next fiscal year.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Scott-

**Scott Graves:**

So I wanted to... Oh, yes.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you so much. I just want to note, just in order to try to allow time for our subsequent agenda items. Would it be okay to take a question now from a council member? And I know you have some information about your organization, and we will post that on the ECPC web page-

**Scott Graves:**

Of course.

**Karin Bloomer:**

... shortly after this meeting.

**Scott Graves:**

Whatever works for you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you so much.

- [Council Questions](#)

**Claire Ramsey:**

Yes, we had a question, Scott. Thank you first for the presentation. That was really helpful. We have a question for Mary Ignatius in the chat. How much is in the discretionary fund without the additional 4.5 billion that the governor is proposing?

**Scott Graves:**

Well, it would be at zero. Yes. So, the way it works is that the governor says we have a \$7.5 billion deficit, and we need to find seven and a half billion to get to zero, where general fund revenues are expected to exactly match general fund spending. I believe the rule is there has to be at least a positive balance in this discretionary reserve. So, they could say we're going to leave an estimated \$1 in our discretionary reserve. So, if they don't do the four and a half billion, they could do \$1, or they could do 10 billion. So that's really important for everyone to keep in mind, not to get fixated on the four and a half billion as if it's set in stone and has to happen.

It is a very good idea to be prudent and have some extra dollars set aside as a cushion in the general fund, but it doesn't have to be that large. The governor could have come out and said, "I'm proposing a \$2 billion discretionary reserve instead of 4.5." If he had said that, then by definition, he would've needed two and a half billion dollars less in budget solutions in order to balance the budget. So, the discretionary reserve is a policy choice, and advocates could make an argument that it doesn't need to be that high. The governor is overshooting. Let's make it three, let's make it two.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thanks Scott. So just a bit of housekeeping. I see Mary has her hand up. I'm going to let her take her one question. But to make sure that we have enough time for the discussion on the ECPC budget letter we'll just take only Mary's question, but if anybody has additional comments or thoughts they want to put in the chat from the council members who may have things percolating that they didn't get to ask live or just want to make sure their thoughts are captured please feel [free to put your comments] in the chat. And I am acknowledging I'm talking too fast, and I will slow down for the interpreters. I apologize. Mary, please.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Okay. One more question on revenues. Scott, I know the Budget and Policy Center has also been looking at tax breaks that we give away annually, automatically, without any budget hearings or accountability as to what those tax breaks give back to California taxpayers. Could the legislature and the governor, like they're pausing these other things and delaying and freezing these other programs that you just shared with us, could they pause tax breaks to those wealthiest corporations and individuals? And also, in light of federal Trump tax cuts potentially coming, does that require two-thirds of the legislature, or is that something they could just propose?

**Scott Graves:**

Yes, great question, Mary. So the legislature can do anything at once as long as it's not prohibited by the constitution. So as long as they have a two-thirds vote in each house, it does require a two-thirds vote of the Assembly in the Senate to scale back or

eliminate a tax break benefiting anyone. But now if we're looking mainly at big corporations and very wealthy individuals who are benefiting from tax breaks that we may say they don't really need and we should be bringing those dollars into the Treasury to pay for critical services, they can do that with a two-thirds vote of each house.

What is so frustrating to my organization and to many advocacy groups I know out there is that the legislature and governor haggle over tiny dollar amounts in the state budget. Relatively small expenditures that make a big deal and impact, positive impact on Californians. And they refuse to scrutinize in any consistent way the tens of billions of dollars in tax breaks that go out the door every year. And that constitute a shadow budget.

And I would encourage all of you to start adopting this term shadow budget when you're talking to policy makers about tax breaks because it acknowledges that these are on the books and not being scrutinized in the same way that our regular spending is through the budget bill deliberations. So, if they wanted to do this and they had the political will, they can scale back or eliminate any tax break they want to tomorrow.

- [ECPC Budget Letter](#)

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thanks Mary and thanks Scott. Well thank you again, Scott. I know we gave you very little time to go through a lot of information and really appreciate you being here with us today. And with that, I am going to now turn it over to council members, Andrea Fernandez Mendoza and Donna Sneeringer. Again, Andrea and Donna have very graciously agreed to spearhead the process of developing this letter on behalf of the council to advise the governor and the legislature on budget priorities in the early childhood space.

The letter that they've drafted, excuse me, drafted and are about to share is posted on the ECPC webpage under today's meetings. And then the council members you have also received this letter via email in advance of this meeting. And so with that, I'll pass it over to Andrea and Donna to present the letter and for us to have a discussion about its potential for adoption and endorsement by the council.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Good morning everyone. Donna, if you don't mind me just jumping in here. Just to give a little bit of background, I know we have a lot of people on here who may not be aware, every budget cycle, the ECPC puts together a letter to advise and recommend the governor, legislature and Department of Social Services on ECE early learning issues and child development policies, part of that is the budget because where our budget lies, where our values lie. And so in January you saw a letter that we had put out and put our support behind.

May we have the May Revise. You're going to see a very similar letter, but it does address some of the changes in the new challenges that challenges that we face as we are dealing with the new administration. So, I know the council has already reviewed the letter, but we recognize that while there were not significant cuts to early childhood



across the board, there were cuts, and the proposal to push the slots down the road again. So, you're going to see a lot of that in the bullet points that we're covering. Donna, did you want to jump in and-

**Donna Sneeringer:**

I think you covered it very well. Good job.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

This is again, an ongoing compromise. We know there's a lot of backdoor deals going on right now. A lot of what we're looking at and what we're asking for will be discussed behind the scenes between the legislatures and ultimately with the governor. And so we want to put our support behind again, implementing the cost of care methodology that that hasn't changed. That's still our ask. We know that the federal cuts will deeply affect how California goes with its budget because there is so much uncertainty and turmoil happening.

So recognizing that we are semi-whole yet we're still asking for things to be held upheld and investments continuing that have been made over the last year that are needed. They're in imminent danger because of the federal administration cuts, what they're doing to everyone's budget. And so again, cost of care methodology, restore and approve the cost of living adjustment. We know that the COLA was cut from state preschool and educational programs, so we were asking to restore the cost of living. We all know that the political climate has caused cost for all of us from one end of the spectrum to the other to rise.

And our families are facing that as well. Fund state contracts based on the federal requirement for paying based on the child's authorized enrollment, not attendance. And that is a federal regulation that has come through. There is some conversation about whether it pertains or not. And so, we are asking in our letter to fund state contracted programs based on enrollment and not attendance. Again, fulfill the 200,000 child care spaces by budget year '25, '26 and not push them down the road. We do understand the situation that we're in, but again, we are asking for the upholding of what we have in place and what has been promised to us. And protect the emergency child care bridge funding program at '24, '25 budget levels.

We know that that program did face significant cuts, and that program ensures immediate access for child care for children that are entering the foster care system, and it provides a safety net for them. And so, we need to keep that in mind as we're ensuring equitable access to all families and all children in California in our workforce. These cuts and the proposals that are on the table impact families and the predominantly marginalized persons who are making up the workforce not only on the providing end, but on the receiving end. And so, we ask the support of all of our council members to help us elevate this letter to get our cause and our needs in a time of great turmoil and instability. But thank you and I appreciate your time.

**Donna Sneeringer:**

And I would just add that the COLAs continued for TK through 12, but not for early childhood programs, which is why we specifically called that out. And also, would just

underscore all of the comments made. I think Andrea did an excellent job framing the letter and I got to be the editor, which was much easier. So, kudos to Andrea for all the heavy lift.

- Discussion

**Karin Bloomer:**

So just as a point of process for those of you who have been a part of this discussion in the past. These council members will be looking for your endorsement shortly and so we have a short amount of time to entertain any very specific language requests that are formulated and shared and preferably in the chat so that everyone can look at it. I think Andrea and Donna I imagine you welcome, again, any brief feedback prior to the endorsement process.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

We recognize that there are still threats to our budget. We recognize that there are still a lot of unknowns. And so, we try to frame it with what we know and what we are expecting at this point. As Scott had mentioned earlier, things are going to change between now and when the budget is finalized and when everything is worked out through backdoor conversations. So, we do appreciate any thoughts or ways to strengthen the letter.

**Claire Ramsey:**

This is Claire. I just want to flag that in the chat Zoila did mention the fact as lifted up that the brunt of the cuts are being borne by children, elderly and most vulnerable communities, and there's sacrifices being asked of family. So, she frames to say that perhaps we ask harder questions. Shouldn't other people be making sacrifices?

And then Mayra also says, "Agree, there's language around revenue generation that can be added to the letter to strengthen that piece." So just wanted to flag there was that request around some sort of... And Mayra or Zoila, I don't know if you have a particular sentence you would want to see added, but that would be really to Karin's point, very helpful if you add it in the chat.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

I can drop in some language.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Great, thanks.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Thank you. That is very helpful. So, then we could just put it in and get it approved by all of the council.

**Claire Ramsey:**

And then Mary Ann Hansen also asked if we can propose that we acknowledge preservation of Medi-Cal access for children who are undocumented, but I advocate a request to preserve Medi-Cal access for undocumented families. And just to be clear, I believe the proposals are all related to adults 19 and older. There aren't actual Medi-Cal proposals to reduce coverage for children, but to Mary Ann's point, obviously families can be affected by those cuts in Medi-Cal.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Okay. So perhaps as council members, for example Mayra Alvarez will provide some language in the chat. Is it the pleasure of the council for us to entertain a bullet around preserving Medi-Cal access for undocumented families?

**Robin Layton:**

I would just caution that we don't go over two pages. Are we at three or two?

**Karin Bloomer:**

We're at a page and two thirds.

**Robin Layton:**

We have a little room and in the past we wanted to focus on the highest priority. I mean if we put everything in there, it's not going to get looked at as much as if we really prioritize what we really need and want.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

And that was one of the reasons that I tried to pare it down because people will not read what is too long. And so -

**Robin Layton:**

So, I guess my point is I like what's in there. I'm cautioning us now that we're in conversation to not add too much more. And the preserve Medi-Cal access for undocumented families, I mean, it's all over the news. It's threats for all families. So why are we just concerned about undocumented families and not all families?

**Donna Sneeringer:**

California families?

**Claire Ramsey:**

Oh, I would just to Robin's question, I think that the distinction there is there are actual Medi-Cal proposals related to department of healthcare services for undocumented families in the California May Revise versus what you might be referring to for the federal government in their budget bill that passed the house that does have much broader Medicaid cuts that would impact across families. So just distinguishing those two.

**Donna Sneeringer:**

I'm just curious. I don't think this group meets again before late summer. So, this letter could have that evergreen component so that if there are actions taken at the federal level and the state has to make decisions, this could still stand in those later summer conversations because I don't think we meet again. And it would still be adjustments to this year's budget. So, I'm comfortable.

**Robin Layton:**

I agree with that. So are you suggesting that what we're starting to put in now or add is threats and not really here yet and so you want to wait until August to-

**Donna Sneeringer:**

No, I am saying I think putting the Medi-Cal access for California families in is important because I do think that it's going to be part of this ongoing continuum. And it is the children and families who are in early childhood programs who would be impacted. And I like the revenue language plus one on Mayra's language.

**Robin Layton:**

So the bullet for instead of saying undocumented, we can say all California families. That's what I was proposing.

**Mary Ignatius:**

I have my hand up. I mean, this is a May Revise letter, correct?

**Donna Sneeringer:**

Correct.

**Mary Ignatius:**

So, I think I would actually focus on what's in the May Revise and say we reject the proposal to do this. We reject the proposal to do this. We accept this or we want this. Because the Medi-Cal one is really a May Revise proposal, and it seems like all the other bullets are too. And I think because of our full membership on the committee Medi-Cal is really critical to early childhood, so we should be including it. And I originally raised my hand because for me the letter was just missing revenues and it looks like someone added that in, so yay.

**Donna Sneeringer:**

Thank you Mayra.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Thank you Mayra.

**Karin Bloomer:**

I see Mary Ann Hansen's hand.

**Mary Ann Hansen:**

Actually, I think Mary just said everything that I was going to say that since this is a May Revise response letter I think we should be specific to undocumented families. Although I really recognize the utility, and to use Donna's word, the evergreenness of protecting Medi-Cal access for all California families. But since this is specific and directed to the May Revise I feel like that language is good. That's on the screen. And also, just want to second or third or fourth or fifth, the addition of revenue language. Thanks.

**Karin Bloomer:**

I see Lissete's hand.

**Lissete Frausto:**

Hi. Yes. Thank you Mary for that. Since this will be regarding the May Revise we reject. Because I was actually adding something in the chat regarding the slots that now they're wanting to be pushed back to 2026, 2027. And I know I've mentioned it before. My youngest one in is two years old and I've been going back and forth trying to find a stable child care for her. And I called one of the centers where she's been on a wait list to be known since 2023.

So, it's that period of time and now she's into that age group where she's really needing that social and emotional interactions. And I know I'm not the only family that is on a wait list. We have about two million families on the wait list or like it was mentioned earlier. One in seven children that are actually eligible for child care are able to access it. So, wanting to also make sure that they know that we don't want to wait anymore longer.

We've already waited so much long and it's like we're just being pushed back, pushed back and it shouldn't be that way. So just making sure that they know that families need child care now and now it's literally now if it's possible, instead of having us wait even longer because that's just not accessible for families and it's not going to also work for California as well to continue rising if they want to rise. So, we make sure that children and families are prioritized now rather than later.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thanks Lissete. And just to confirm, so you're really affirming the bullet around the child care spaces and that they're needed now in the new fiscal year. Is that right?

**Lissete Frausto:**

Yes. Correct. Mm-hmm.

**Karin Bloomer:**

And I'll just note I see four council members' hands. I think we're looking to very specifically for any other changes that you'd like entertained by the council to quickly understand what those are so that the council members can move to a verbal

endorsement. So, if we could just ask these comments to be brief and specific to any changes. Zoila I see your hand.

**Zoila Carolina Toma:**

I just put a few changes already on the chat. You guys call whoever is drafting and just use them as needed, but I can write more. We just want to keep it short. But there's a lot, there's a lot that we need to address just because of what I mentioned in some of those. It's just the most vulnerable people is the communities, is that one that is always, always going to be affected. And as one of the suggestions is it mentioned that these cuts it's just going to throw us decades back. It's going to roll us back on some of that progress that we have already accomplished unfortunately.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Zoila, I see you've got suggested language at 11:08 and then again at 11:09. Just to again look to you and other council members just to see what you think is most essential. I'm trying to scroll down and show you what's left of a two-page letter. So again, just looking for direction from the council on what additional pieces to add here. So, Zoila, if there's something very specific from those two that you recommend including let us know. And while you maybe think about that and put it in the chat.

**Zoila Carolina Toma:**

Let me do that. Thank you.

**Robin Layton:**

Am I up?

**Karin Bloomer:**

Yes, you are. Thank you.

**Robin Layton:**

Yes. If you could go back to the new paragraph. I don't want to take the time here, but I think it needs to be wordsmith a little because drawing down reserves it doesn't make sense to me as far as... I think it should be in there, but it's not a way to raise revenue. So, the second two things, scaling, spending and drawing from reserves is maybe a second sentence.

But I also would suggest now that we've had the presentation from Scott, and he's called out this \$4 million that the governor wants to, I'm a little confused, is that to add to a reserve, maybe call him out on that so that he doesn't get to do that in this paragraph. And I trust that that can be done outside of this meeting. Then the other thing I wanted to see was the paragraph or bullet about the rate reform. I just didn't see that. Where are we calling that out? Thank you. Okay, thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

And Robin and Mayra, you can please speak up if I'm misstating it, but I believe that's what Mayra is to in the drawing down reserves. So maybe it's the use of some of this reducing the amount in the discretionary reserve for purposes.

**Robin Layton:**

Yes, using Scott's words. The shadow budget, whatever he called the four million was going, I don't think he used the word reserve. It's going somewhere. So, if we can just use those words.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Okay. So, appreciate that. I can refine this sentence post-meeting to reflect Scott's direction on the... I'll look back and again can confer with him. I believe it was the governor's discretionary reserve. Mary, I see you asking for rejecting the proposed delay in the implementation of true cost of care.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yes, I leave it up to the other folks in this call to get that language.

**Karin Bloomer:**

So last, just to review these requested additions, again, that I can add, but just to understand if there's any concerns or reservations by adding these. I want to go back through the chat. Mayra, I think as you talk about Medi-Cal, I'm a little unclear as to whether what your specific recommended change is to this new bullet preserve Medi-Cal access.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

I was responding to Mary's suggestion around reject proposed reasons to enrollment and health for all and just adding reject proposed reasons to enrollment and cost sharing in health for all.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

As part of Medi-Cal?

**Mayra Alvarez:**

It's more specific. Yes, you could say Medi-Cal. Sure, that's even better. But I like Mary's more specific language around rejecting the proposed reasons to enrollment and we'll simply add and cost sharing because that's cost prohibitive for families.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Okay. So your statement would be preserve Medi-Cal access for undocumented families by rejecting proposed reasons to enrollment in healthcare for all and rejecting proposed delays to fulfill... Okay, that's a separate comment.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Yes.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

So healthcare for all and cost sharing.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

So yes, by rejecting proposed reasons to enrollment and cost sharing.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Okay. Enrollment and cost sharing. Thank you for talking us through that because we were trying to catch everybody's-

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Thank you for your openness.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Okay. What I might suggest is that I think if we can make this one other change to the reference to the reserve, I can ask if this version, as you're seeing it here, is amenable for your endorsement.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Karin, the only other thing I wanted to ask. Deborah's had her hand up and hasn't had a chance to add any comments. I just didn't know if we were able to get to her.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Claire, thank you so much. My apologies. Deborah.

**Deborah Corley-Marzett:**

Thank you for that. And again, my Internet's messing up right now because I'm out doing pickups. But I have to say this publicly that when Scott Graves had mentioned about the slots and kicking that quote-unquote "can," that was a kick to my gut. Lisette, you are right. We can no longer continue that. So that's what I just needed to say publicly. Providers and the Children's Reserve cannot continue to be kicked down the road, put to the side for another administration to deal with. Thank you.

- [Council Action](#)

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you, Deborah. Okay. I think what I'd like to suggest is that the edits you see here are those that we've added to the letter. And asking if Andrea that-

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**



I think it encompasses everything that we've discussed and the comments and suggestions from the chat. Donna.

**Donna Sneeringer:**

I agree. I think we captured the comments from everyone. And I think it's better for it. I appreciate everybody's feedback.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Yes, thank you.

**Donna Sneeringer:**

So just-

**Karin Bloomer:**

... Everybody's feedback.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Yes, thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Just a quick review of process, again, in terms of verbal endorsements, council members who are members of the administration traditionally abstain, as this letter is really being directed to them and their administration they're a part of. For everyone else, maybe Andrea, you could do the honors of asking for those who propose it to say aye, and then pause and see if there are any nos.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Yes, council members, please, if you are in favor of supporting the letter regarding the May Revise, I would ask you to say aye.

**Mayra Alvarez:**

Aye.

**Miren Algorri:**

Aye.

**Robin Layton:**

Aye.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

On the flip side, if anyone is against the support of the letter, please unmute yourself and say nay. Hearing none? Karin, do we have to call for abstentions?

**Karin Bloomer:**

I know that by, again, tradition and protocol, it would be Chair Claire Ramsey and Lupe Jaime-Mileham. Are there any others who wish to abstain or need to abstain? Okay.

**Kim Patillo:**

I need to abstain since I'm representing the state Board of Ed. It's a...

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you. Thank you so much. Appreciate that. That's right.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Thank you everyone for all your thoughtful input, and your help on the letter and making it a little more fine-tuned. We appreciate it and thank you for your support.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you. That concludes this agenda item, which means we will open up the chat feature for the next five minutes for public written comment. We'll turn to agenda item four, which is update on rate reform.

#### 4. Update on Rate Reform

- Status Update

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thanks, Karin, and thank you again to Andrea and Donna for working on the letter, and for all of you participating in edits and comments. Now, as mentioned, we're going to turn it over to Jackie Barocio from the Department of Social Services to do a very quick presentation on updates to rate reform, acknowledging it's a very large topic and we have limited time, but there are other opportunities to hear more. With that, I will turn it to Jackie.

**Jackie Barocio:**

Yes. Hi, everyone. Wait for the slide deck to go up. I'm here to present on the alternative methodology cost outputs that have come, that have been shared in prior rate and quality advisory panel meetings in April and May. Just flagging that this will be a very quick high-level presentation, and more detailed information of the numbers that I'm going to present today can be found in those prior rate and quality work advisory panel meeting materials. Next slide.

As you all know, the alternative methodology cost model, there's various rate elements that we have, and then based off those rate elements, it generates initial annual cost per child outputs. These initial per child cost outputs are not proposed new rates, but rather the alternative methodology will be used to inform rate setting. Rate setting is a separate process that's subject to the budget and for family child care providers, the collective bargaining process as well.

In my presentation, I'll do a very quick high-level overview of the cost model outcomes, and then a more detailed walkthrough again was provided in those previous RQAP meetings. Those meetings were reported, and slides are posted on our website. Next slide. This chart represents the 100% annual cost per child outputs for Title 22 centers. As you can see here, they're broken up by regional groupings and also age groups, infant, preschooler, school age.

Every slide moving forward will be broken up by their regulatory type, Title 22, Title 5, or less exempt, and also say center, family child care, and will be broken out by the same regional groupings and age groups. Here, as you see, the outputs generally increase across the regions, and then also you'll see that infant outputs tend to be the highest, followed by preschool, and then school age. The infant outputs range from \$36,700 to about \$55,200. Preschool outputs range from about \$24,500 to about \$36,400. Then the school age outputs range from about \$15,000 to about \$22,600. Next slide.

This slide shows the 100% annual cost per child outputs for Title 5 centers. For the infant outputs, those range from about \$47,300 to about \$71,000. The toddler outputs range from about \$43,400 to \$65,000. Preschool output range from about \$33,650 to about \$50,000. Then the school age outputs range from about \$19,800 to about \$29,005. Next slide. The cost model also generates annual cost per child-

**Spanish Interpreter:**

Overlap translation from Spanish channel

**Claire Ramsey:**

Sorry, can I ask everyone to pause? Something has happened with the interpretation, where, for those of us who have selected English, it is now overlaying the Spanish interpretation over the English, and we can't hear the English anymore. Wanted to just hold on for a second to see what has happened there.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Deanna, are you able to confirm for us that it's been resolved?

**Deanna Yactayo:**

I believe that the Spanish interpreter accidentally clicked the wrong button, so I think we're able to move forward.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Okay.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thank you very much, and sorry about that. I think what we missed was simply Jackie reading the numbers off the slides. I don't know if we need to go back maybe to reread, Jackie, what you gave on this slide again. Thank you.

**Jackie Barocio:**

I dropped off at three to four-year-olds, but I'll just go back to two-year-olds. The two-year-old outputs range from about \$39,100 to about \$58,700, and then the three to four-year-old outputs range from about \$28,700 to about \$42,800. Next slide. Similarly, the cost model also produces part-day state preschool only outputs. For two-year-olds, those outputs range from \$27,800 to about \$41,750. For three to four-year-olds, those cost outputs range from \$15,200 to about \$22,550. Next slide.

For Title 22, Family Child Care, the annual outputs for infants range from about \$40,000 to about \$58,000. For preschoolers, they range from about \$24,800 to about \$35,900. For school-age outputs, they range from about \$13,000 to about \$18,750. Next slide. For Title 5, Family Child Care, the annual outputs for infants range from about \$44,500 to about \$64,400. The preschool outputs range from about \$28,500 to about \$41,100, and then the school-age outputs range from about \$14,900 to about \$21,500. Next slide.

The final outputs for family, friend, and neighbor, those initial cost outputs for infants are about \$20,700 to about \$30,300. For preschool, the outputs range from about \$13,400 to about \$19,600. Then for school-age outputs, those range from about \$7,000 to about \$10,400. Just wanted to share those cost model output initial findings, and I'll pass it back to Karin.

- **Council Questions**

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thanks, Jackie. Chair Ramsey, my thought is we might have time for a question or two from the council on the presentation?

**Claire Ramsey:**

That's right, Karin, I think that's about what we have time for. Then just confirming, Jackie, that there's another opportunity in June, is that correct?

**Jackie Barocio:**

Yes.

**Claire Ramsey:**

To hear more about rates?

**Jackie Barocio:**

We have our scheduled June RQAP meeting. That date has been changed to June 12. That's on our website, so just wanted to provide that update in this space as well, where that will serve as an opportunity to further engage in more detail on the alternative methodology rate reform.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thanks, Jackie. Want to acknowledge, we had a question in the chat requesting the breakdown of which counties are in which region. Just so Lubna knows, we are looking

to get that information and drop it in the chat, so everyone has that. Oh, I see Lupe has just put it into the chat, so thank you, Lupe.

With that, we will take one to two questions, and then we want to make sure we leave enough time, so at least a little over 20 minutes for public comments. We'll have about five minutes now for any immediate questions on Jackie's presentation on rates.

**Karin Bloomer:**

I see Miren's hand, Miren Algorri.

**Miren Algorri:**

Thank you. No, I do not have any question. I'm a slow to warm up. That's my temperament. That's the kind of person that I am. I'm thinking about these May Revise the \$7.5 billion deficit, balancing the budget coming at the expense of early childhood educators, and young learners not being viewed as the same way that K through 12th grade students are viewed. Here, we are again, having this conversation about the new payment methodology based on the true cost of care.

At this point, no, I don't have a question. I believe that the sentiment across the board is that we've had enough of these conversations and these presentations, and we reject any further delays in implementing the true cost of care payment methodology for early childhood educators. It must happen. Providers are struggling to operate on these outdated 2018 regional market rates. Look at inflation, post-pandemic challenges that have driven cost higher.

Delaying these critical reform threatens the survival of ECE programs across the board. It deepens the child care deserts that affect especially BIPOC single mothers. It affects parents of infants and toddlers, and it hinders participation of these, like I mentioned, BIPOC mothers on the workforce. Every day of inaction undermines California's economy. When we talk about deficit, but yet we're not funding properly, we're not moving into these new payment methodology to support the ECE workforce that makes all the other work happened.

We're hindering the economy. Here we are, giving this solution to these issues, and how to strengthen our economy because child care is the backbone of thriving workforce. Enabling parents to work and contribute is what we do. With that said, I would like to invite you all to join us at the Capitol. We're going to be marching, we're going to be rallying on June 11th, 2025. Child Care Providers United invites you to join us.

Child care allies, parents, educators, let's bring our voices to the Capitol, and let's make these happen. These cannot wait any longer. Please join us at the Capitol on June 11th, and let's make the new payment methodology a reality. Thank you.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thanks, Miren. Appreciate that comment. Anybody else have a comment or question in the next couple minutes? Donna, acknowledging your comment in the chat, and we'll make sure to take that back. Andrea is plus one-ing Miren's comment, thank you. Then Donna, concerned about regional breakdown, so appreciate that as well.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

Just really quick, Claire-

**Claire Ramsey:**

Andrea, please.

**Andrea Fernandez Mendoza:**

One of the things that we need to keep in mind with the methodology and the rates is that legislatures may not fund them at 100%. We need to keep that in mind and always have that on the radar as we move forward, because a percentage has historically been funded.

Pushing for the highest percent, we obviously know with the budget as it is, but keep that in mind, because that is going to make a big difference of how this rolls out. I think a lot of people don't recognize that.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thank you, Andrea. Robin, please.

**Robin Layton:**

Andrea, thanks for bringing that up. Just to add to that, and we bring this up at every Rate and Quality Panel Meeting, bring it up here, the report will and must show the true cost, and then it's up to the legislature and the administration to fund what they believe is their priority, because we know there's money. Just keep that in mind that we continue as panel members. Some of us that are on the ECPC are also panel members.

We are really trying to make sure that the report, the final report, shows the true costs, not what anybody in the administration thinks we can afford. I believe, and maybe somebody on this call can enlighten us, that maybe the reason for the change to June 13th, are we going to see a draft final report since it is due at the end of June? Is that what the June 13th meeting is going to be?

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thank you for that question. I don't know if we have an answer. I see... Look to Lupe or Jackie. Yes.

**Jackie Barocio:**

Moving the meeting to June 12th was just because of scheduling conflicts. It's a busy period for a lot of folks, but noted, Robin, your question about a desired content in the June. Well.

**Robin Layton:**

Actually, thank you. It wasn't a question, it's just to the public that's out there, that's what the panelists are asking for, that the report has the true cost. My question is, at this June meeting, are we going to see a draft final report for us to before it goes to the

legislature? The legislature was promised by the administration that they would have something by June 30th.

We all understand it's not going to be funded on July 1st. We all understand that. That's not what I'm asking. I'm asking if we're going to see the final draft report before the legislature at our June meeting.

**Jackie Barocio:**

I believe you're referring to that statutory requirement that says if the single rate structure is not implemented July 1st, 2025, the administration or the department shall provide a report to the legislature with a timeline. That coincides with also quarterly reports.

The content for the June, I think we can follow up, but we are tracking that report, we're intending to meet that report deadline, but feel free to clarify, Robin, if that's not the report you're talking about.

**Robin Layton:**

I'm calling it a report. Whatever it's called, it's the final product of our over two to three years' worth of work that is going to show what the true cost is. Is that I believe there was a couple of hearings in the spring, where the administration promised that that's what the legislature would receive by June 30th.

**Jackie Barocio:**

Yes. There's so many reports. I think the report you're talking about is the cost estimation model report that the federal government requires us to submit that reflects those cost outputs, 100% cost of care outputs, generated through the alternative methodology. That will reflect the outputs we just walked through today, which are those 100% annual cost outputs that the alternative methodology produces.

**Claire Ramsey:**

I'm just going to quickly say, Robin, we're taking your question back, whether that draft will be shown at the RQAP. We don't have an answer today, but we will take that back, and to Jackie's point, make sure the agenda is clear on whether or not that will be included.

**Robin Layton:**

Okay, thank you.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Hearing your request, though.

**Robin Layton:**

Thank you.

**Claire Ramsey:**

We have Zoila and Deborah, we'll ask both of you to quickly provide your additional comments, and then we will turn it back to Karin so we can start public comment as close to 11:40 as possible. Zoila, please.

**Zoila Carolina Toma:**

As a family child care provider myself, I understand. As a former team member from the negotiation team, I understand that not everything that we ask is going to be given. It'll be beautiful if we just ask and is given, or what we deserve is given. It doesn't work that way. We've been putting up with this for so long. We are seven years behind in our rate. We are saying no more because it's not fair. It's not fair to the families we serve.

It's not fair for us as workers, spending so many hours, and it's not fair for our families. I know there's people that will say, "Why you are in that industry? Why you're in that job doing it if it doesn't pay enough?" We love what we do, because if we are not here, who else is going to do it? We understand that right now, that industry of education, not many want to do it, because it's unfair, it's underpaid, it's undervalued. We cannot keep putting up with this. We need fair pay. We need to be considered.

We are saying no more because how many years are we going to be funding? Like Miren says, how many more years are we going to be funding the subsidized program, because that's what we're doing. We are eating, we're supposed to charge across private families and subsidized programs the same, but we are not getting paid that. Wherever the subsidized program is not paying us, we have to eat it ourselves, and we have to make it like, we have to make it happen. What else we're going to do? It's not nice to call aside a family, "I'm sorry, you cannot afford me. I cannot take a child."

We have to figure it out, these counts. We have to figure it out what else we cut, and we are already doing cuts in our own programs, and now the state is cutting us completely. It's very unfair, unfortunately. Let's work together, like Miren said, please come to Sacramento on June 11th, and let's unite. Let's do this happening, because they have to be money. There is money. Other than that, we're saying that our state, it's almost bankrupt, and we know that our state is the fourth-largest economy in the world.

I keep saying that, because that's what it is. Other than that, are we what, the eighth, 10th economy now? Are we slipping up? What is happening? We need to make sure that we as providers, educators, we don't stay behind. Thank you.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thanks, Zoila. I appreciate your comments. Deborah, please.

**Deborah Corley-Marzett:**

Yes, thank you for that. I just want to go back and first I want to say thank you for the invitation, Miren. I will be there June 11th. I appreciate that. Thank you for your words, Miren and Zoila. I just want to go back again to Scott Graves. When Scott Graves mentioned rate reform, he mentioned that it was moving at a glacial pace. Well, we all know that a glacier moves at a very slow pace.

Providers cannot continue to be moved, to be, how can I say? Dealt with in a slow-paced mentality. We need rate reform now and quickly. Then I'm going to also say on



behalf of providers in California, who are struggling with the thought of UPK, maybe we should slow down UPK and kick that down the road a while for a few years till the next administration. That's my comment, and I thank you again.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Thanks, Deborah, appreciate you. Karin, I'll turn it over now so we can move to public comment. Thank you all for the discussion on rate reform.

## 5. General Public Comment

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you. We will now invite the final round of public comment today. We'll be opening the chat feature for written comment. If you'd also like to make a verbal public comment, please use the raise hand feature at the bottom of your screen at this time. We ask that speakers keep their comments to two minutes or less, so that we can accommodate as many members of the public to speak as possible. I'll give you a gentle reminder when you have 30 seconds left and when the two minutes is up.

Please understand that public comments are statements submitted for the public record. Council members are not in a position to respond to questions or comments at this time. All right, with that, we will begin to take the first person in the queue. I see Liza Zarodney, we're going to unmute you on our end. Please unmute and go ahead.

**Liza Zarodney:**

Thank you very much, and that was a very good pronunciation of my last name. I really appreciate it. I am an FCC provider for 27, 30 years, and I am in Livermore, California, and I just would like to ditto on what the unions are saying about the reform rates. I am in jeopardy for now a couple of years of closing because of the lack thereof rates, not getting paid a fair rate. I have a small facility, so I don't have staff, thank goodness, but in the 27 years I've been doing daycare, I have never ever paid myself.

I make enough to go day-to-day living, and right now, I'm having to deal with a health crisis of, I got diagnosed with cervical cancer three weeks ago, and now they're wanting to cut all kinds of things that the union has fought for us to get. I definitely support the policies that you guys are trying to send this letter, and unfortunately on June 11th, I have a surgery that date. I would love to be there to support, but as a daycare provider, it's very, very important to understand that we matter.

We mattered when it was COVID, but now, all of a sudden, we don't count for anything, and that's not right. We get the babies, and I do infants. It's very important to, and I agree, maybe slow down TK, but I appreciate your time, and I appreciate all the hard work that you guys do. It means a lot to have a lot of support out there. Thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you so much. Andrew Avila, we'll unmute you on our end. Please unmute and go ahead.

**Andrew Avila:**

Hi, can you hear me?

**Karin Bloomer:**

Yes. Yes, we can.

**Andrew Avila:**

Thanks. On behalf of Early Edge California, we want to thank the council and the department staff for the resources related to immigration and the important discussion on rate reform. I want to share our concern regarding the lack of specifics on achieving the promise of child care slots, and also the removal of the cost of living adjustment for child care providers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Additionally, for the alternative methodology, we're concerned about categorizing four-year-olds under the school age category instead of preschool, which doesn't make too much sense, and will have unintended consequences, and also does significantly lower reimbursement rate for family, friend, and neighbor providers.

We appreciate and commend the ECPC letter, highlighting the need to implement the alternative methodology, reinstating the COLA for child care providers, and basing provider reimbursement on enrollment and not attendance. Thank you all for fighting to keep, to make sure the promises are made and kept to child care providers and families. Thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you. Marcella Graves, we're unmuting you on our end. Please unmute and go ahead.

**Marcella Graves:**

Yes, hi. My name is Marcella Graves. I'm out of Fresno, California. Been in business 29 years, and I just feel that they need to keep their promise. Child care providers is already struggling as it is and trying to make ends meet, robbing Peter to pay Paul. We go to school like they suggested, we've done all that, and we're still not heard, and we're not respected in our profession, and we need to be. We need a rate increase.

We need to keep the rate increase, and they need to up it, and we also need to keep our benefits that were given to us. Our dental and vision has only been live since July, hasn't been a year, and they want to take that away. It's not right, and it's unfair, and it's not humane. Thank you so much for your time today.

Karin Bloomer:

Thank you. Looking for any other raised hands from the attendees. Okay, seeing none, I'll turn it back to the chair.

**Claire Ramsey:**

Well, thank you again for everyone from the public who participated in our ECPC meeting today, and we don't comment on public comment, but I think I just want to say to Liza, who shared her cancer diagnosis, you were getting a lot of supportive

comments, and I think the whole ECPC wants to send you the best for your health and for your upcoming surgery.

Thank you again for every member of the public's testimony. Thank you to the council members and committee members for your comments and reflections throughout the meeting. As always, appreciate the really robust discussions and the rich topics we covered. I hope to see you all at our next meeting, which will be on August 27th. Thank you. With that, this meeting is adjourned. Hope you all have a lovely day, and a good end of the school year.

END OF TRANSCRIPT