

CHILD CARE PROTECTIONS FOR WORKING FAMILIES



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*Support
\$30 Million
Budget
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AB 60*



Why We Need AB 60:

California raised the minimum wage so that people are paid more fairly for their hard work. But the extra 50 cents an hour has unintentionally caused many families to lose child care.

What AB 60 offers:

AB 60 will allow parents earning the minimum wage to keep their affordable child care, so they can continue to work and their children can stay in day care, preschool, and after-school programs.

How AB 60 works:

This bill updates guidelines that have been frozen for over a decade, to raise the income eligibility for affordable child care, taking into account the new minimum wage and the cost of living in California. The cost to implement this policy must be funded through the state budget process.

The Income Eligibility Limit Would Increase by 24 Percent if Updated for the Most Recent State Median Income

Income Limit for a Family of Three for Subsidized Child Care and the State Preschool Program



Note: The estimated income limit for 2017-18 is based on the state median income for a four-person family in 2015, adjusted to reflect a three-person family using the methodology applied by the California Department of Education (CDE) as part of the latest update to the income limit in 2007-08. Source: Budget Center analysis of data from CDE and US Census Bureau



California Budget
& Policy Center
Independent Analysis. Shared Prosperity.

Christina

San Joaquin County



“This is Sumaria, she is a happy healthy two year old. Sumaria attended Mrs. Vickie's day care. During our time with Mrs. Vickie I lost my child care subsidy due to her dad losing his job and not finding another within the allotted time frame.”

“This picture shows the look on Sumaria’s face when I tell her that today is her last day with Mrs. Vickie and her friends [and then] Sumaria crying in my lap at home. Not understanding why she can’t go back to day care anymore.



“Families like mine would not have to go through situations like this if there was 12 month eligibility. No matter if the parents life situations are fluctuating the child deserves continuity of care.”



Francis

Sacramento County



“[I] recently received a small raise and I am now \$30 above the eligibility guidelines. The state is terminating my affordable child care, even though my raise won’t even begin to cover the \$1300/month that I will have to pay for child care now. How can I keep working if I have to pay 37% of my gross pay for child care?”

“In my six-month review I was rated “outstanding” in all areas... I am very proud of the raise that I earned, but I wish I could turn it down because losing my affordable child care leaves my family much worse off.”

“I simply can’t afford to spend almost \$1,000 more a month on child care. Without enough money to cover all of our bills, I will be forced to move my family somewhere much cheaper and don’t see how I can afford rent, food and gas for my car. I was finally becoming financially independent and if I can’t keep my job, I will have to go back on CalWORKs cash aid and Food Stamps.”

Melissa

San Diego County

“[My child care provider told me] I was over the income limit by \$100 and they were no longer able to help me pay for my childcare expenses. My first reaction was that of disbelief since, as a single mother, I was already struggling to make ends meet. I could not understand how that could even be possible. ”

“My provider stated that even though my monthly income was below the SMI limit [I earn \$2,900/mo.] the reason why ... I was over was due to a bonus I had received the prior year.”

“Every day during this time when I would drive to my daughter’s childcare to pick her up, I would be crying wondering what was going to happen. I would cry trying to figure out what I was going to tell her when the day came when she would have to leave the teachers and kids that she loved so dearly and spent almost 12 hours of each day with since she was 1 year old learning, growing, playing, laughing and becoming a family with those around her.”



Anna - Estella

Sonoma County

“Having four jobs with four separate pay stubs to report each quarter is a waste of time. Every three months I had to go to each employer and have them fill out paperwork, which can be confusing and time consuming”



“Some of my bosses would get irritated with me because of all of the paperwork that needed to be filled out. My child care worker also had to call them frequently to verify that the times were correct.”

“I constantly felt like they were trying to catch me in a lie because they would get

confused trying to add up all of my hours of employment, school hours, and hours of childcare. My worker would have to bring her boss in the room to figure out my case.”

“Updating these policies and funding them in the budget would have helped me have security in my household, which is something I don't always have. My child deserves security. I would have been able to focus on my child and school, not frustrating paperwork and feeling like a criminal.”

May

Los Angeles County

May's husband got a promotion, and a \$4-an-hour raise. She was thrilled — until she told her kids' day-care center the news. The Center for Early Childhood Education notified Martinez that the raise would put the couple over the income threshold that the state set for child-care subsidies.

Instead of paying \$167 each month to the center for half-day care, Martinez would have to pay the market rate of \$2,400. Her husband's small raise of \$640 a month would actually make their family worse off because they'd lose their affordable child care. May represents thousands of families feeling the effect of California's failure to update the income guidelines or increase the exit to the federally recommended 85% of SMI.



For more information about this campaign or about how you can help families get affordable child care, please contact:

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