



Assembly Democrats Prioritize Early Care and Education

The California Child Care Resource and Referral Network is glad to see that the Assembly Democrats' Major Budget Priorities includes investing in the continuum of education of children, beginning in the earliest years of life. We are also very pleased to see a priority to establish a state Earned Income Tax Credit for working families that are still living in deep poverty.

With one in five children living in poverty in California, the combination of boosting family income and securing quality child care that enables parents to work while providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for children are wise investments that benefit all Californians. There is much evidence that children show lifelong benefits from early education and development experiences during an important period of life as children's brains are developing rapidly. It is also well documented that poverty and poverty related circumstances also impact a child's well-being and their chances of success in life if adverse effects of poverty are not addressed early. This is why we commend the Democratic Assembly for linking the data and research into positive policy and budget priorities that go beyond simply funding a safety net program. They are looking forward towards what is in the best interest of children, which is in the best interest of our economic future. While in the short run, investments in child care enables a parent to go to work without worrying about the safety of their child, which is positive for the working parent, and their employer. It also benefits our elementary and secondary education system that is already challenged with educating children who come to them unprepared for school.

We applaud the Assembly Democrats' leadership in seeing these early investments are critical to our collective future, and echo their priorities outlined for this year's budget. We also support them in their efforts to secure additional funds targeted at serving more children and in securing child care provider rates that are livable wages commensurate with providers' level of experience and expertise.

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