



March 3, 2016

The Honorable Senator Carol Liu
State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Support for SB 1154: Child Care and Development Services: Resource and Referral Programs
The Patricia Siegel Child Care Resource and Referral Memorial Act of 2016

Dear Senator Liu:

The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network is proud to sponsor SB 1154: The Patricia Siegel Child Care Resource and Referral Memorial Act of 2016. Since 1976, California has invested in Child Care Resource and Referral programs (R&Rs) to help parents find child care by identifying the full range of existing public and private, licensed and license-exempt, subsidized or fee-based, child care services. Every county in California is served by at least one R&R program. R&Rs give parents information on child care such as types of programs that are available, the hours of service, ages of children served, and fees and eligibility for services. Located in communities across the state, R&Rs are a trusted resource for parents and for four decades have served as the central place for parents and providers to receive support. Additionally, R&Rs serve as an infrastructure for the State to disseminate information to communities. R&Rs also develop and provide training on a variety of topics for providers and work with community resources and public agencies to help develop local child care plans.

The roles and responsibilities of R&Rs are dispersed throughout the Education and Health & Safety Codes, regulations, and in the Funding Terms and Conditions developed by the Department of Education. R&Rs have changed and adapted over the years to meet the needs of families, children and providers in their local communities, however, the Education Code has not been adjusted to reflect these changes. This update will preserve quality consumer education and provider support in California and at the same time will identify components of the recently reauthorized federal CCDBG Act where the state already complies.

We support the bill's core goals to:

- Codify the various ways families conduct their child care search that reflects the information and methods used by parents, including utilizing technology/online child care planning, and to utilize the R&R as the state's infrastructure for collecting information about the supply and demand of children care.

- Clarify the protection from distribution of provider information to be consistent with the Health and Safety Code (1596.86), especially for small family child care providers.
- Clarify the role and functions of the existing *Child Care Initiative Project* that supports communities to increase the number of child care spaces available and to improve the quality of the child care offered.

On behalf of the children, families, and child care providers in California, we thank you for your leadership in authoring SB 1154 and look forward to working with you and other supporters of this timely legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Asato", written in a cursive style.

Linda Asato

Executive Director