**INSERT LETTERHEAD**

**Submit by email to*:***irene.frausto@asm.ca.gov, Jaspreet.johl@asm.ca.gov

**Copy email to:** mary@parentvoices.org; lfurstenfeld@childcarelaw.org , egabel@ccfc.ca.gov

**Date – Please send ASAP**

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio

Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee

1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, California 95814-1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, California 9

**Re: Assembly Bill 60 (Santiago & Gonzalez) - SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Rubio:

 [Name of Your Organization] supports Assembly Bill 60, which ensures children can stay in the child care they love for as long as their families need it and keeps parents working. This bill also “defrosts the SMI” guidelines that have been frozen for over a decade and creates a pathway out of poverty.

We applaud the new minimum wage increases that have passed statewide, but the increase in pay is still not enough to afford child care, the very thing that enables families to work.  For the tenth straight year, the state has continued to use outdated income eligibility guidelines. A family of three where both parents earn the new state minimum wage of $10.50/hour – $3,640 monthly pre-tax income – no longer qualify for subsidized child care. “This could cause their child care expenses to jump by hundreds of dollars per month, even though their monthly pre-tax income would have risen by less than $200.” [[1]](#footnote-1) An increasing number of parents are forced to turn down promotions, reduce work hours, or quit school in order to keep their child care. Stable child care is critical to strengthen parents’ ability to work, improve their prospects in the job market, and increase their earning potential. Continuity of care creates the stable conditions children need for healthy development and school-readiness. Research shows that children’s educational and developmental outcomes improve when they have continuity in their child care arrangements.[[2]](#footnote-2)  Frequent changes in child care arrangements are associated with higher levels of stress and negative behavior in young children.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Optional: Include 2 sentences about why your organization cares.**

AB 60 is an extraordinary opportunity to remove unjust and unjustified, red-tape reporting rules that cause eligible families to churn in and out of child care programs; put their jobs at risk; disrupt children’s school readiness and development; make it impossible for child care professionals to balance ledgers or plan for quality investments while accepting children with subsidies; and burden employers and education providers who are required to sign off on the endless paperwork. For these reasons, [**Name of Your Organization**] respectfully asks for your “Aye” vote.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**

1. California Budget and Policy Center, A Rising Minimum Wage Reinforces the Case for Boosting Investment in CA’s Child Care and Development System (April 2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Reidt-Parker, J. and Chainski, J.,The Importance of Continuity of Care: Policies and Practices in Early Childhood Systems and Programs (2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Dicker, S., and Gordon, E., Zero to Three (2004). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)