



State Budget Deal a Big Win for Child Care System

Governor Brown and state legislative leadership struck a budget deal on June 16. The tireless work and energy of child care providers in 2015 made a significant impact in adding provisions that improve our early education system. The budget deal includes increased reimbursement rates and additional child care slots. This means that even more working families will have access to quality child care.

Total investment in Early Education is \$265 million, including:

- 6,800 slots for Alternative Payments for \$165 million;
- 7,000 slots for pre-school, 5,800 in full-day, 1,200 in part-day, 1/2 in prop. 98 fund, 1/2 in general fund for \$100 millions.



Our work isn't done yet, but this is a big step forward. To ensure that our child care system is put on a path to a brighter future, we need the Assembly and Governor Brown to pass and sign SB 548, The Raising Child Care Quality and Accessibility Act. This bill directly addresses many of the issues we have with the current system, in addition to giving providers a powerful voice and collective bargaining rights.

Women Leaders Spotlight Child Care Crisis with Non-Violent Civil Disobedience

Civil rights icon Dolores Huerta was among several women leaders who participated in civil disobedience Wednesday June 3rd, to draw attention to a child care crisis that drives the state's debilitating achievement gap and leaves families in poverty. With state budget negotiations entering their final weeks, and SB 548 (De León) facing a Friday deadline to move out of the Senate, hundreds of child care providers, parents, and allies held a rally and marched from the Capitol.



The events, hosted by the Raising California Together Coalition, SEIU, and AF-SCME, put a focus on the role child care plays in economic empowerment for women and families, as well as the critical role early education plays in preparing growing young minds for academic success.

We had an incredibly successful day with over 600 people who turned out to Sacramento for the Child Care Civil Disobedience to push Gov. Brown to sign the SB548 Act.

Luisa Blue, Chief Elected Officer of SEIU Local 521 was among several women leaders who participated in civil disobedience to draw attention to a child care crisis that drives California's debilitating achievement gap and leaves families in poverty.

SB548 Act passed off the Senate floor the next day on June 4.

Update: Quarterly CDE Provider Input Meeting

The Department of Education meets with child care providers quarterly to continue work on streamlining inefficiencies and improving processes. Here are a few highlights from the February meeting:

Capacity: We discussed guidelines regarding agencies implementing a 50% capacity rule. Currently, there is no state guideline that mandates providers to have 50% private pay kids.

Streamlined Complaint Procedure: We asked for clarification on the Uniform Complaint Procedure. Asked what steps are needed for both parents and providers to submit complaints. Asked for a timeline in terms of response when the complaint was received. Also received a point of contact.

Reimbursement Changes: There have been changes on how Networks provide reimbursements for providers that are not consistent with state guidelines.



Providers meet with State Licensing Department

We had our very first meeting with the State Licensing Department in April! This is an exciting step forward because it gives us an opportunity to have a say in improving standards in our profession. We hope to establish regular meetings like we have with CDE. Here are some meeting highlights:

- Established guidelines for meeting procedures and introduced everyone in the room.
- Discussed inspection parameters and what areas can be inspected. Also discussed hours of operations and sought to clarify whether a provider must allow an inspection during non-operation hours.
- We requested more resources in multiple languages. Often times providers are given new guidelines but not in the language that they speak.
- We requested clarification on citations and how those are applied towards providers.
- Emphasized the need for collaboration to build and foster a more positive relationship between Licensing representatives and providers.

CA Providers sit down with Hillary Rodham Clinton



On May 20th in Chicago, presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton sat down with early educators from around the country. Included in this intimate group were providers from SEIU Local 521 and 99, including our own 521 provider Pam Strong! They talked about the need for meaningful, effective investment in

our country's early education system...including worthy wages for those of us caring for and preparing our children for success in school.





April Rally for Children Calls for Support of SB 548

Our coalition of Family Child Care Providers, early education and children’s advocates, parents, and Kid Governor made historic strides!

Hundreds of providers and allies from across the state — many who spent Wednesday morning traveling by bus — arrived in Sacramento early on April 29 to call on the Senate Labor Committee and the Senate Education Committee to support and pass SB-548.

“A quality child care program provides an important foundation for a child to succeed in school,” said bill author, Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León. “California must invest in child care programs to tackle poverty and empower parents to provide a better life for themselves and their families.”

After both committees passed SB-548, supporters gathered outside the capitol for the Rally for Children. The rally opened with a special performance by the Dream Achievers, a band comprised of talented musicians with autism. State Senators Hannah Beth Jackson, Holly Mitchell and Isadore Hall spoke about the critical role of early education and family child care in supporting working families and preparing California’s children for success in school and life.

“Educating and caring for our children is God’s work!” said Isadore Hall, III, State Senator for district 35.

Family Child Care Providers Tonia McMillan and Alice Delagarza along with Areva Martin from the Special Needs Network and our very own Kid Governor emphasized that it their work has, and always will be, about the children.

“Child care providers create ladders of opportunity for our children, and provide working families critical support so they can go to work with peace of mind,” said Alice Delagarza, SEIU Local 521 Child Care Provider.

The act will provides:

- More low-cost child care openings for working parents
- A voice with the State for front-line family child care providers
- Expand training for all early educators
- Research on most effective ways to support low-wage parents



THE DEFINING ISSUE OF OUR TIME CHILD CARE



Quality, affordable child care makes a lifetime of difference for California’s children.

Childcare supports working women

Childcare keeps kids safe and learning while mom is at work

Early learning means kids do better in school and are less likely to drop out

Today, one million California children are locked out of quality child care and early learning. One in three child care providers have left the profession since 2006 because of poverty wages. The average pay is \$4.98 an hour.

Tell Governor Brown: stand with California’s children, with working women and with Hillary Clinton – expand child care and give child care providers the right to bargain collectively.

Call 916.445.2841 today!



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