



**AB 1471 – Protecting Child Care in Disasters Act**

*Strengthening child care response and recovery in emergencies.*

**SUMMARY**

---

Assembly Bill (AB) 1471 updates Welfare and Institutions Code 10224.5 to codify the role of California Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to prepare for, respond to, and support in the recovery from an emergency that impacts a community’s child care infrastructure.

**BACKGROUND**

---

Disasters can strike anytime in California, requiring continuous emergency management and coordinated information sharing. Children, especially infants and toddlers, have unique needs that emergency responders may not always be equipped to address. California Child Care Resource and Referral agencies play a critical role in ensuring child care providers and families receive essential support during times of emergency, with at least one agency serving each of the state’s 58 counties.

The federal Child Care Development Block Grant Act of 2014 mandates that states maintain an emergency disaster plan to minimize harm and ensure continuity of child care services. In response, California developed the Child Care Disaster Plan (2016, updated through 2023), an annex to the State Emergency Plan. This plan outlines communication and coordination protocols for disaster-affected child care infrastructure, defining roles for partner organizations in supporting children, families, and providers. A two-way communication system links child care representatives with state licensing authorities and local emergency responders to track facility status, damages, injuries, family reunifications, closures, and available child care slots.

However, even though the Childcare Resource and Referral agencies are identified as partners during an emergency, their roles are not clear and they are not adequately equipped to fulfill the range of responsibilities assigned to them. Coordination of the emergency functions is also currently unavailable, which is important to identify gaps, minimize duplications in key activities, and to create a clear system of consistent communication across the state that California Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and child care providers can practice and understand.

**THIS BILL**

---

AB 1471 will codify the role that Child Care Resource and Referral agencies play in supporting families and the local child care infrastructure, during disasters, whether natural or human-caused, and other emergencies. The bill ensures Child Care Resource and Referral agencies work collaboratively with state and local emergency responders in both preparedness and response efforts.

**SUPPORT**

---

- CA Child Care Resource & Referral Network (Sponsor)

**CONTACT**

---

Ben Endsley, Legislative Assistant  
(916) 319-2027  
ben.endsley@asm.ca.gov