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Assembly California Legislature



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UTILITIES AND ENERGY
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

AB 92: The Affordable Child Care Family Fees Act

SUMMARY

This bill alleviates the burdens that families face in paying for child care by creating an equitable sliding scale for family fees. Additionally, AB 92 temporarily waives family fees for all families through October 2023.

EXISTING LAW/BACKGROUND

California is one of the most expensive states for parents who need child care services. In Los Angeles County and statewide, the average two-parent working family spends around 20% of their annual income on child care.

While there are a number of State and Federally-funded programs that help families pay for child care, these programs still require them to pay family fees, which can make subsidized care unaffordable. Many California families pay hundreds of dollars per month, up to \$583, in family fees. With limited disposable income, working families struggle to pay high fees and are forced to make difficult decisions about their basic needs. A recent study found that, in Sacramento County, at least 10% of families paying fees are on payment plans for back fees they have been unable to afford.

These families are at significant risk of losing their subsidized child care which can, in turn, jeopardize their employment, education, or well-being. This places them at greater risk of reliance on the state's other welfare programs and prevents families from rising out of poverty and gaining wealth. As their income increases, so do their family fees, which then erases any economic gains they have made.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened the need for affordable child care for families and communities of color, who are a significant part of California's essential workforce. The California legislature has responded by suspending family fees for all families until June 30, 2022 in the FY 21-22 budget. Thousands of parents have greatly benefited from this relief and will continue to need affordable child care to provide for their families well past this fiscal year.

THIS BILL

AB 92 will convene a workgroup of stakeholders, including parents and providers, to establish an equitable sliding scale for family fees. This bill will ensure the revised family fees do not exceed 1% of a family's monthly income and that no family earning below 75% of the state median income (SMI) pays family fees.

AB 92 protects child care providers by ensuring they do not absorb the cost of a reduction in family fees and that the number of child care spaces are not reduced. Additionally, this bill will temporarily waive family fees for all families through October 2023 to reduce the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic and as permitted under federal law.

By increasing the affordability of child care to working families, AB 92 will benefit the state's economic recovery by helping parents remain in the workforce and achieve economic stability.

SUPPORT

Parent Voices (Co-Sponsor)
Child Care Resource Center (Co-Sponsor)
Child Care Law Center (Co-Sponsor)

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California Child Care Resource and Referral Network (Co-sponsor)
American Association of University Women (Co-sponsor)
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action
C5 Children's School
California Alternative Payment Program Association
California Association of Student Councils
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
California Family Child Care Network
California Women's Law Center
California Work and Family Coalition
Child Action, Inc.
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Child Care Providers United (CCPU)
Children Now
Children's Council of San Francisco
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
Community Change Action
Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County
County of San Bernardino
Courage California
Early Care and Education Consortium
Early Care Educators of San Francisco
Early Edge California
Equal Rights Advocates
EveryChild California
Family Child Care Association of San Francisco
First 5 California
First 5 San Bernardino
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
Indivisible CA Statestrong
Kai Ming Head Start
Kidango
Los Angeles Unified School District
Low Income Investment Fund
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
Parent Voices San Francisco
Parent Voices of San Mateo County
San Francisco Child Care Planning and Advisory Council
San Francisco ECE Advocacy Coalition
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

The Children's Partnership
The Future of Supporting Family Child Care
True Sunshine Preschool Center
Untitled No. 1 School
Women's Foundation California
Work Equity Action Fund
Wu Yee Children's Services

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