**[Insert Letterhead. If you don’t have letterhead, insert your business name if you have one]**

**Email your Support letter to:** **Katerina.Robinson@sen.ca.gov** **and** **sjud.fax@sen.ca.gov**

**Copy to:** **lfurstenfeld@childcarelaw.org****,** **jfrudden@childcarelaw.org****,** **knzewi@rrnetwork.org**

**Date – Letters due by Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 12 PM, Noon**

Chairperson Hannah-Beth Jackson

State Capitol
Room 2187
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 234 Keeping Kids Close to Home (Skinner) - SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Jackson:

[Name of Your Organization] supports Senate Bill 234, because parents need quality, safe child care close to home. To meet the needs of today’s families, this bill equalizes and updates state law to encourage and support family child care, so parents can work and children can thrive.

 Families are facing a desperate shortage when looking for child care, especially for their babies and toddlers. Licensed child care is available for only 23% of children with working parents. While families scramble to find good child care, one third of our child care providers have been forced to close their doors since 2006. Family child care is a community asset, the primary source of affordable care for infants and toddlers, offering a warm, home-like environment with flexible hours, close to home.

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

 Nearly 40 years ago, California recognized the importance of family child care when the Legislature established protections for family child care homes in communities through the Child Day Care Facilities Act (CDCFA). But the law has not kept pace with families’ needs, and loopholes have caused uneven application by cities, burdensome local regulations, and lack of housing protections. Family child care providers are routinely turned away from homes because they care for children, despite the fact that family child care is needed, wanted, and legal in all types of rental homes. SB 234 will update the law by:

* Requiring local governments to treat large family child care homes the same as small family child care homes – as a residential use of property in their local ordinances;
* Clarifying that licensed family child care homes may operate in apartments and other multifamily units while maintaining state fire and licensing safety requirements;
* Clarifying housing protections so providers are not prohibited from living in a home solely because they care for children;
* Clarifying that family child care providers may seek remedies under the Fair Employment and Housing Act if their rights under the CDCFA are disregarded.

 When our children are nurtured, they can achieve their full potential and their parents have more options to improve their future. For these reasons, [**Name of Your Organization**] respectfully asks for your “Aye” vote.

Sincerely,

**[INSERT YOUR SIGNATURE]**

**Your Name**

**Your Title**