



Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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August 5, 2013

The Honorable Kevin De León, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator De León:

ASSEMBLY BILL 274 (BONILLA) – SUPPORT SET FOR HEARING AUGUST 12, 2013

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), I am writing to urge your support on AB 274 authored by Assembly Member Susan Bonilla. AB 274, if passed, will create greater efficiencies in the administration of subsidized child care and development services, particularly in the Alternative Payment (AP) Program.

The Roundtable, staffed by the Office of Child Care located within the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office, represents the collective experience, expertise and wisdom of community leaders in early childhood, education, business, economics and research and County departments representing child welfare, mental health, probation, social services, public health, and parks and recreation. As a County Board of Supervisors appointed Commission, its primary mission is to build and strengthen child care and development services by providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policy, systems, and infrastructure improvement.

Current processes for administering the subsidized child care and development system are cumbersome and do not reflect technological advances. AB 274 is intended to simplify administrative processes related to tracking and verifying attendance of children enrolled in child care and development programs that are subsidized with AP vouchers. The AP program, with vouchers, subsidizes child care provided primarily in private centers, family child care homes or by license-exempt providers such as a family, friend or neighbor. In addition, the bill would clarify that certain attendance and other records may be maintained electronically and provide a mechanism for contractors to receive payments via direct deposit. In Los Angeles County, 12 agencies (inclusive of the eight Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agencies and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)) that hold a contract with the CDE to administer the AP Program will gain from the streamlined processes. Moreover, easing administrative burdens will ultimately free up agency resources that can then be used to improve direct services for children and their families.

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AB 274 is consistent with the County's policy to support the streamlining of California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of early care and education funding to meet the needs of families.

Please feel free to contact Kathleen Malaske-Samu by e-mail at kmalaske@ceo.lacounty.gov or by telephone at (213) 974-2440 or Michele Sartell by e-mail at msartell@ceo.lacounty.gov or by telephone at (213) 974-5187 at the Office of Child Care if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



Dora Jacildo
Chair

DJ:MPS

Cc: Assembly Member Susan Bonilla
Each Member of Senate Committee on Appropriations