



April 21, 2021

Chairperson Lisa Calderon
Assembly Committee on Human Services
1020 N Street, Room 124 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 92 (Reyes) - SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Calderon:

On behalf of Nourish California, I write to express support for AB 92 (Reyes), a bill that would provide relief to thousands of families facing economic hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic by temporarily waiving family fees for subsidized child care. Additionally, this bill would reduce the maximum family fee that a family would have to pay, further alleviating the economic strain of child care.

Nourish California works with policymakers to help shape the programs and policies that should connect — but sometimes stand between — Californians and the food they need. Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already high levels of food insecurity. To help illuminate the experiences of individuals and families across California, particularly in light of the ongoing pandemic, we engaged FM3 research to conduct a statewide representative opt-in survey and focus groups of Californians with household incomes below \$50,000. We learned that [over half of parents with young children](#) reported they had their hours cut back, wages reduced, or had to leave their job to provide care for their family during the pandemic. AB 92 will help address the high levels of hunger and hardship we are seeing across our state by supporting working parents and making child care more affordable.

AB 92 financially liberates families with low incomes. This bill:

- Temporarily waives family fees for all families with state and federally funded child care subsidies.
- Implements a new and equitable family fee schedule once families' fees resume with parents, child care providers, the lead agency and other stakeholders and ensures that no family earning below 75% of the State Median Income pays family fees or that any family pays fees that exceed one percent of their monthly income.
- Ensures the reduction in family fees collected are not absorbed by child care providers.
- Ensures the reduction in family fees collected does not reduce the number of child care spaces.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and actions taken thus far to address the child care crisis.

Sincerely,



Melissa Cannon
Senior Advocate
Nourish California