



April 21, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 50 (Limón) - SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Portantino:

On behalf of Nourish California, I write to express support for SB 50 (Limón), which would strengthen and promote a mixed-delivery early learning and care system in California to better meet the needs of working parents and their children as envisioned by the Master Plan for Early Learning and 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 [40% of parents with young children had to leave their job](#) to provide care for their kids or family during the pandemic. SB 50 will help address the high levels of hunger and hardship we are seeing across our state by supporting working parents and removing barriers to ultimately serving more young children through California's mixed-delivery early learning and care system — currently, less than one in 5 children who are eligible for a state subsidized program are able to participate in one.

Specifically, SB 50 would open up the State Preschool Program (CSPP) to serve children 0-5 and to serve children in family child care homes. This will allow more low-income 3 year-olds, infants, and toddlers to access quality early learning and care. A recent report by the American Institutes for Research shows that the need for care among this group is acute. Additionally, this bill will remove existing barriers between child care and preschool contracts, allowing providers to transfer funds between contracts and adjust their services to better meet the needs of families and improve continuity of care for children in their communities.



SB 50 will also make it easier for families to enroll in subsidized child care and preschool. This bill expands categorical eligibility for child care for families who are already enrolled in CalFresh or Medi-Cal, as well as extends eligibility for child development services from 12 to 24 months to improve continuity of care for families and children.

Finally, SB 50 also increases stability for providers by shifting to reimbursements based on program enrollment rather than attendance — a model already used by the federal Head Start program. Moving to an enrollment reimbursement model will help providers across the state retain more of their contract funds each year to improve access to, and the quality of, programs for low-income children and families.

SB 50 is important legislation that will help California create a streamlined and strengthened early learning and care mixed-delivery system that better supports children, families, and providers, and sets our children up for a successful future. For these reasons, we strongly **SUPPORT SB 50** and request your support for the bill.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cannon
Senior Advocate
Nourish California