

Please submit your letter of support for SB 1047 through the California Legislature Position Letter Portal:

<https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

If you have not registered for an account to submit letters of support, please do so [HERE](#).

(If you have any difficulty submitting your letter through the portal, please email [mmarc@kidango.org](mailto:mmarc@kidango.org)).

[Insert Your Logo]

## Date

The Honorable Connie Leyva  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1047 (Limón) - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Leyva:

**[Name of Your Organization]** supports SB 1047 (Limón), which would expand access and eligibility for early learning and care programs in California to better meet the needs of working parents and their children, particularly infants and toddlers.

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more rapidly than any other time in life. Young children's experiences shape the architecture of the brain and set the foundation for lifelong health, well-being, and success. Unfortunately, disparities in learning and development start at birth, fueled by the opportunity gaps and toxic stress caused by poverty, inequality and adverse experiences. Research shows that high-quality early learning mitigates disparities, improves young children's language, social skills, and kindergarten readiness, and has significant long-term benefits.<sup>1 2</sup>

California currently allows too many infants and toddlers from low-income backgrounds to fall through the cracks without access to the high-quality child care and crucial supports that they need to thrive. Approximately only 10% of California's infants and toddlers who are income-eligible for subsidized child care are enrolled.<sup>3</sup>

**SB 1047 would address this issue by expanding access and eligibility for childcare programs.** SB 1047 aims to increase efficiencies in the direct contracting early learning and care system by removing barriers to serve more children in quality programs and strengthen the family child care system to give our youngest learners a strong start. Specifically, SB 1047 would accomplish the following:

---

<sup>1</sup> Kidango (2019). The Evidence Base for Child Care-Early Head Start Partnerships.

<sup>2</sup> García, Jorge Luis, James J. Heckman, Duncan Ermini Leaf, and María José Prados. "The Life-cycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program." (2016).

[https://heckmanequation.org/www/assets/2017/01/F\\_Heckman\\_CBAOnePager\\_120516.pdf](https://heckmanequation.org/www/assets/2017/01/F_Heckman_CBAOnePager_120516.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> American Institutes of Research and Berkeley Early Childhood Think Tank (2018). Achieving Fair Access to Early Education.

- **expand the State Preschool Program (CSPP)** to serve children 18 months through age 5. This will ensure providers have more flexible funding to meet the needs of children and families, instead of balancing between multiple different age-limited contracts. Funding that follows the child will help protect against children losing services because they have a birthday. Opening up CSPP to younger children will also allow more infants and toddlers from low-income backgrounds to access quality early learning and care.
- **enable low-income families to more easily enroll** in subsidized child care and preschool. This bill expands categorical eligibility for subsidized child care for families who are already enrolled in CalFresh, Medi-Cal, WIC or Head Start. This will significantly reduce the paperwork and administrative burden on families and providers.
- **make it easier for families to maintain access** to subsidized child care and preschool. The bill also extends eligibility for subsidized child care from 12 to 24 months to improve continuity of care for families and children.

SB 1047 will expand access to high-quality early learning and care programs by leveraging existing state and provider resources. This is particularly true for infants and toddlers, where the unmet need is most acute. Considering COVID-19's devastating impact on families and early childhood providers, we must build a stronger, more equitable early learning and care system for California's children, families and providers. For these reasons, we strongly support SB 1047 and respectfully urge your AYE vote.

Sincerely,

**Your Name**

**Title**

**Organization**