

Here is a sample support letter for SB 1047. Please copy and paste onto your email or letterhead and submit via email to leg.unit@gov.ca.gov using the following subject line “RE: SB 1047 (Limón) Early learning and care. REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE”.

September XX, 2022

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 900
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1047 (Limón) - Early Learning and Care
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom,

[Your name or Organization] is pleased to support 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.

The first five years of life set the foundation for future learning, and high-quality early learning programs can have a transformative impact.

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. In the first few years of life, more than 1 million new neural connections form every second, and these connections are strengthened by repeated use, particularly through interactions with parents and caregivers.¹ The brain’s ability to change in response to experiences is strongest in the first years of life.²

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. Ensuring access to quality early learning and care, especially for those children and families most marginalized and excluded from opportunity, can help mitigate the impact of systemic racism and poverty and narrow disparities based on income and race.

Families with young children will benefit from strengthening the mixed delivery early learning and care system, including family childcare, community-based programs, and schools.

SB 1047 expands 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. 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.

Specifically, SB 1047 would accomplish the following:

- **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.

¹ Center on the Developing Child (2007). The Science of Early Childhood Development.
<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-science-of-eed/>

² Ibid.

- **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 families receiving aid, where the unmet need is most acute. For these reasons, [Your name or Organization] strongly support SB 1047 and respectfully urge your signature on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Title

Organization