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Kidango Co-Sponsors AB 2429 to Expand Early Childhood Mental Health Support

FREMONT, Calif. [March 2, 2026] – Kidango is proud to co-sponsor AB 2429 – authored by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio and introduced Feb. 20, 2026 – to expand and strengthen Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) in Early Childhood Education programs throughout California.

ECMHC continues to grow as a model that can build the capacity of teachers to respond effectively to all children and create trauma-informed and inclusive environments. Since the passage of AB 2806 in 2022, also authored by Assemblymember Rubio, more ECE providers have been able to implement ECMHC with a roadmap on best practices and program requirements to follow. Now, we have the opportunity to make key adjustments to the model, which will make it easier for providers to implement and allow consultants to further customize their approach based on needs of the children, families, and teachers.

“My experience as a teacher informs my work as a legislator,” said Assemblymember Blanca Rubio. “I understand that developing policy and passing legislation often requires trial, error and correction. Authoring AB 2806 was a significant and meaningful effort that strengthened means of supporting vulnerable children, their teachers and families, uplifting mental health care and helping navigate the impacts of stress and trauma. This past piece of legislation was a critical step in setting our children up for success, emotionally and mentally- and the goal remains the same with AB 2429. Making updates to ECMHC program requirements takes feedback from those utilizing these services, allowing for implementation to be used precisely and where it is most effective.”

The ECMHC model is the most proven way to reduce expulsion in preschool and child care,” Kidango CEO Scott Moore shared. “It is essential that we continue to improve the specific requirements of ECMHC in our state so that more providers can utilize this service and have flexibility to tailor their approach to the needs of teachers, children, and families. In doing so, children will flourish in environments that nurture self-regulation, belonging, and other key social-emotional competencies.

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Kidango is an early learning nonprofit and the largest childcare provider in the San Francisco Bay Area. Kidango serves low-income families across diverse communities and accommodates more than 4,000 children each day. Guided by a commitment to equity



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and opportunity, Kidango works to ensure every child is on a path to thrive in kindergarten and life. For more information, visit www.kidango.org.