



February 18, 2026
The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senate President pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Kidango Recommendations on the 2026-27 Budget

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate Pro-Tem Limón, Assembly Speaker Rivas,

I am writing on behalf of Kidango and the 5,000+ families and children we serve. Kidango is an early learning nonprofit working to ensure every child is on a path to thrive in kindergarten and life. Kidango is guided by a commitment to equity and opportunity and is committed to designing and moving forward policy solutions that uplift the voices and perspectives of families and early learning professionals. Kidango celebrates the historic investments in Early Care and Education (ECE) over the last several years. However, our state must go further to address families without care and teachers without proper wages. As our governor said in his final State of the State Address “we have to do more than resist what is wrong – we need to keep building what is right”.

At this critical time, we urge our state leaders to prioritize the following policies:

- In alignment with the Early Care and Education Budget Coalition:
 - Fulfill the commitment to deliver the remaining 200,000 childcare spaces promised in the 2021–22 State Budget Act.
 - Raise the wages of early childhood caregivers by implementing rate reform.
 - Implement a reversion account for unspent ECE dollars
- Continue to strengthen the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) Model across the state and support programs to utilize this approach.
- Maintain funding in the amount of \$35 million statewide to provide for County Offices of Education (COEs) to sustain and enhance Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) implementation efforts.

These provisions must be included to protect and grow our economy and workforce and to continue California going to continue to be a model for the country. Kidango’s is committed to partnering with our state leaders in the year ahead to protect our collective future. Our point of contact is Maéva Renaud, Vice-President of Advocacy & Policy, mrenaud@kidango.org, 510-480-8458.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Moore".

Scott Moore
Chief Executive Officer
Kidango

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maéva Renaud".

Maéva Renaud
Vice-President of Advocacy & Policy
Kidango