

AB 60 (Santiago & Gonzalez Fletcher): The Child Care Protections for Working Families Act

POSITION: Support (Policy Platform)

STATUS: AB 60 was introduced by Assembly members Miguel Santiago and Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher on December 07, 2016. The bill passed the assembly May 30, 2017 and was referred to the Senate committees on Education and Human Services on June 08, 2017.

AT-A-GLANCE

AB 60 changes the structure of the state childcare system by making the re-determination of eligibility every 12 months, ensuring that child care assistance is guaranteed by the state on a yearly basis even with a change of income, as long as the change does not pass the eligibility threshold.

SUMMARY

AB 60 changes the structure and eligibility for state childcare assistance which makes determination of need a 12-month process instead of continuing a continuously monitored program. It will also allow individuals making up to 85% of State Median Income (SMI) to maintain childcare funding as established by federal regulation. The goal of the bill is to allow parents to work by offering working parents' subsidized childcare.

ANALYSIS

According to the authors, AB 60 was introduced to ensure that individuals do not lose access to thousands of dollars' worth of childcare due to small adjustments in income. The antiquated laws that govern childcare eligibility do not take the new rising minimum wage into account. Many workers now face a problem in which they need to choose between work and childcare as even a small increase in income could lead them to lose the state funded childcare. This problem can be alleviated by ensuring that individuals do not lose eligibility in the middle of the year for small changes in income, which can occur under the punitive reporting system currently in place. The authors believe that the childcare provisions under this bill will help working parents to maintain their employment, not forcing them to choose between employment and childcare.

The bill also changes the income eligibility requirements by updating average income statistics which have remained stagnant for a decade, as well as allowing individuals making up to 85% of SMI to keep their child care funding. This will replace the 70% baseline of SMI necessary to receive child care subsidies, which the authors argue is too low as childcare costs could account for around 30% of pre-tax income for one child. Even the increase in minimum wage which the state hails as a victory would not provide enough additional disposable income to make child care affordable for individuals who are working at minimum wage.

AB 60 will update statewide child care eligibility guidelines which have not changed in over a decade, which has not taken into account the changing minimum wage and cost of living in the state. By maintaining the current regulations which use SMI calculations from 2008, many people stand to lose the subsidies that allow them to work, who would be eligible under the new program. This measure will allow children to get childcare as long as needed, while also streamlining reporting requirements to ensure stability for individuals, employers, and child care providers that rely on the program in the state. AB 60 will help parents to achieve economic security, as well as providing children additional skills for future success, helping families earn more in the future.

SUPPORT

- 24-Hour Oakland Parent Teacher Children Ctr.
- 4C's of Alameda County
- 4C's of San Mateo County
- 9to5
- Advancement Project
- Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council
- Alum Rock Counseling Center
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- BANANAS
- Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, Inc.
- CA Child Development Administrators Associations
- California Alternative Payment Program Association
- California Child Care Coordinators Association
- California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
- California Department of Education
- California Family Child Care Network
- California Head Start Association
- California Women's Law Center
- Central Valley Children's Services Network
- Child Action, Inc.
- Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
- Child Care Law Center
- Child Care Links
- Child Care Planning Council of San Luis Obispo County
- Child Development Associates, Inc.
- Child Development Association
- Child Development Centers Continuing Development Inc.
- Children Now
- Children's Council of San Francisco
- Choices for Children
- Coalition of CA Welfare Rights Organization, Inc.
- Commerce San Jose
- Common Sense Kids Action
- Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo
- Community Child Care Council of Alameda County
- Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County
- Congregation Beth Am
- Crystal Stairs, Inc.
- Del Norte Child Care Council
- EarlyEdge California
- Educare California at Silicon Valley
- Educational Enrichment Systems, Inc.
- Equal Rights Advocates
- First 5 Association of California (E-mail)
- First 5 California
- First 5 Monterey County
- First 5 Sacramento
- First 5 San Mateo County
- First 5 Santa Clara County
- Honorable Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Education
- Institute for Human and Social Development
- Kidango
- KinderCare Education
- LAUP
- Los Angeles of Commerce
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Marin Child Care Council (E-mail)
- Marin Family Child Care Association
- MomsRising.com
- National Council of Jewish Women California
- Northern California Child Development, Inc.
- Parent Voices CA
- Parent Voices Oakland (E-mail)
- San Francisco County Board of Supervisors
- San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council
- San Mateo County Office of Education
- Santa Clara County Office of Education
- SEIU California
- Shasta Head Start Development, Inc.
- Sierra Nevada Children's Services
- Siskiyou Child Care Council, Inc.
- Stronger California Advocates Network
- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- The Resource Connection of Amador and Calaveras County, Inc.
- Toddle Flexible Preschool
- UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
- United Way of San Diego County
- Voices for Progress
- Western Center on Law & Poverty
- Wu Yee Children's Services
- Yolo County Office of Education

OPPOSITION

None known