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COMMITTEES
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LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

February 17, 2022

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
California State Capitol, Room 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair
Assembly Budget Sub Committee 2
California State Capitol, Room 4250
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Updated Budget Request for Child Care Family Fees through September 30, 2024

Dear Chair Ting and Chair McCarty,

Thank you for your leadership in freezing family fees for all families with child care subsidies until June 30, 2022. Parents and child care providers now have resources back in their pockets to pay for rent, food, and other necessities, which in turn contributes to the recovery of California's economy.

We have the opportunity to bring greater stability to all families using publicly-funded child care and to help ensure child care providers are paid justly. As the author of AB 92, which would waive family fees in the coming years, **I am submitting an updated letter to respectfully request that your 2022-23 Budget allocate \$187 million to extend the waiving of family fees through September 30, 2024.** This is permissible with the American Rescue Act of 2021, Child Care Development Block Grant Act Discretionary Supplemental Funds.¹ I also respectfully ask for this year's state budget agreement to adhere to the provisions outlined in AB 92.

Parents who pay family fees often forgo paying their families' other expenses or are forced to leave the subsidized child care program because they cannot afford to pay these fees. Extending the family fee waiver until September 30, 2024 and reducing the fees thereafter will help parents keep their publicly-funded child care and provide for their families. Child care providers who are paid with subsidies will also receive a steady, reliable income and be able to continue caring for our children.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed how the need for affordable child care touches every facet of our society and disproportionately impacts women and mothers of color. Child care makes all other work possible, keeping our children thriving, parents working, and the economy running. Waiving family fees and making child care more affordable will extend instant relief to parents and providers, and ensure the economic recovery of California is inclusive of women of color.

You have the opportunity to continue leading the nation in this space by extending the waiver of family fees. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Shannon Flores, at (916)-319-2047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloise Gómez Reyes', with a stylized, cursive script.

Eloise Gómez Reyes
Assembly Majority Leader, 47th District

¹ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2, §§ 2201(a) and (c) (2021). *See also* U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Svcs., *Information memorandum ARP Act CCDF Discretionary Supplemental Funds 10-11* (2021), available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/occ/CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-03.pdf>. This budget request is based on a cost estimate of \$6.9 million per month for 27 months, Jul. 1, 2022 through Sep. 30, 2024. This letter replaces our November 1, 2021 budget request of \$84 million budget to waive family fees.