



Friday, June 4, 2021

Governor Newsom
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Child Care Rates are Essential to California's Economic Recovery

Dear Governor Newsom,

The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce is committed to our state's economic recovery ahead and building resilience across our communities. During this incredibly disruptive and uncertain time, we have been inspired by the innovation, grit and tenacity shown by so many small businesses throughout the state, as we have all worked to keep our heads above water while keeping our community safe.

As Californians increasingly return to work, it is essential to recognize child care services as a critical component to our shared goals of economic recovery.

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the indispensable need for child care in this state. As schools were operated virtually, child care remained open and enrolled more school-aged children to support families who could not work remotely. Now, with our eyes on economic recovery ahead, our state will again rely on child care as people return to offices and businesses re-open.

However, thousands of child care businesses shuttered during the pandemic, further exacerbating California's existing child care crisis and keeping women, particularly BIPOC women, out of the economy as they provide essential but unpaid care. Child care workers should be able to live in the communities they serve and be fairly compensated for the invaluable work they perform.

Addressing pay equity for childcare workers is essential to addressing the childcare crisis and to getting all Californians who want to work, back to work.

We applaud your bold action outlined in the May Revise to support small businesses, address homelessness, promote equity, and build a stronger California. We hope to see similar bold and historic action in the child care side of the budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Steely", is located below the word "Sincerely,".

Jessica Steely
2021 Board Chair | San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce

CC: Giannina Perez, Governor's Office