



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

June 15, 2017

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Committee on Education
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Re: AB 60 (Santiago and Gonzalez Fletcher)—SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen:

The League of Women Voters California supports Assembly Bill 60, which ensures children can stay in the child care they love for as long as their families need it and keeps parents working. AB 60 will permit families receiving state subsidized early care and education services to remain eligible for services for a full 12 months before needing to be re-certified. This change will provide much needed continuity of care and education for children and a degree of financial stability for their low-income families. Not only is this good policy for California, but the 12-month eligibility will help our state come into compliance with the recent federal Child Care and Development Block Grant regulations.

AB 60 will also permit families receiving subsidized early care and education services to remain in subsidy as their incomes rise, up to a cap of 85% of State Median Income. This change is essential for California's low income families struggling toward self-sufficiency. The current subsidy cap of 70% of SMI leaves thousands of children and families without access to child care. It leaves thousands of young children without access to early childhood education needed to prepare them for school success.

The League has long recognized that child-care programs are a key supportive service for poor families, and we support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it. AB 60 is responsive to diverse needs of children and their families. Not only will more children have access to quality child care, their parents will have increased access to employment—further preventing and reducing poverty.

For these reasons, we urge your committee to pass AB 60.

Sincerely,

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President

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cc: Assembly Members Santiago and Gonzales-Fletcher