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April 19, 2017

The Honorable Miguel Santiago
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6027
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 60 (Santiago) Subsidized child care and development services: eligibility periods – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Santiago,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of your AB 60, which would guarantee 12-month child care assistance and provide a graduated phase-out for families whose income has increased at the time of re-determination, but that still does not exceed the federal income limit of 85 % of State Median Income.

Unfortunately, California's burdensome reporting rules cause eligible families to churn between child care programs and long waiting lists for those programs. Continuity of care is critical to the emotional growth and development of young children. Yet this churning disrupts children's school readiness and development. This waitlist also makes it impossible for child care providers to balance ledgers or plan for quality investments. Research has shown when a child-caregiver bond is continuously broken, young children experience a sense of loss, making it more difficult for them to feel secure and form emotional attachments.

AB 60 would promote continuous child care assistance for children and families for an extended period. Working low-income families often experience rapid changes in income and work-related activities. Retention of child care during a temporary hardship, such as unemployment or extended illness, alleviates stress on children and families, and facilitates parents' smooth transition back into the workforce. Stable child care is critical to strengthen parents' ability to work, improves their prospects in the job market, and increases their earning potential. In addition, continuity of care creates the stable conditions children need for their healthy development and school readiness. Research reveals that children's educational and developmental outcomes improve when they have continuity in their child care arrangements.

AB 60 would bring the state into compliance with the federally required 12 months of child care assistance by relaxing the unrealistic reporting timelines that harm families most. For all of these reasons, the Solano County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 60 and would like to thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez".

John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC: Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Members, Solano County State Legislative Delegation
Solano County Board of Supervisors
Karen Lange, Legislative Advocate, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.