



County of Fresno

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May 16, 2017

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Assemblyman, 31st District
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0031

RE: Assembly Bill 258 (Arambula) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Dr. Arambula:

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is proud to support your AB 258, which authorizes Fresno County to develop and implement an individualized county child care subsidy plan. We sincerely appreciate your leadership on this critical issue, which will increase access to quality early care and education for Fresno County's at-risk children.

As you well know, because of single statewide income eligibility criteria, reimbursement and fund restrictions, many of Fresno County's clearly deserving children are not allowed to participate in the state's subsidized early care and education programs. This one-size-fits-all approach is leaving Fresno County children and families behind. According to Fresno County's Child Care & Development Local Planning Council, approximately \$9.5 million under the Title 5 state subsidized child care contracts was returned to the state last year. This roughly translates to an estimated 1,300 children in the county who could have been served.

AB 258 allows Fresno County limited local flexibility to maximize funding and efficiently use child care subsidy funds to serve more children and their working families. It is modeled after legislatively authorized successful pilots in San Mateo County and the City and County of San Francisco and the recently approved AB 833 (Bonta) for Alameda County and AB 2368 (Gordon) for Santa Clara County. The pilot plan will be developed and approved locally and must also be approved by the State Department of Education. An annual report relating to the success of the plan is also required. AB 258 does not increase state costs or take funding from other counties.

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AB 258 is a modest, yet crucial, approach to addressing inequities in the state's subsidized system. Again, we greatly appreciate your efforts on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Pacheco".

Brian Pacheco, Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Paul Yoder, State Legislative Advocate
Fresno County Legislative Delegation
Early Care and Education, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools