

April 20, 2010

The Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1126 (Liu) as amended April 6, 2010
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Kehoe:

<YOUR ORGANIZATIONS' NAME> supports SB 1126 by Senator Carol Liu. We strongly support efforts to improve degree articulation for Early Childhood Educators and believe that SB 1126 is a good effort to solve many of the problems that higher education students face when deciding undergraduate training for a career in early care and learning. We also believe that this bill will save the state money by eliminating having California pay twice for a student having to repeat taking the same courses in our public institutions of higher education.

There is a demand for assessable high-quality child care and early education career coursework in our public higher education institutions. We believe that the pathway should be seamless for students that want to enter the profession using our institutions of higher education. There is a significant demand for high-quality early care and learning opportunities for children from low-income families, and this is partially due to workforce shortages, as well as budget issues. SB 1126 is an effort to help with the workforce side of the problem.

Lack of quality early care and learning for low income children contributes to the K-12 achievement gap. This early care and education workforce issue is part of the key for solving this problem. We urge your support for SB 1126.

Sincerely,

C: Senator Carol Liu
Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations