



• SAN FRANCISCO •
WOMEN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE

April 23, 2022

The Honorable Senator Josh Newman
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB380 (Limón) Early Learning and Care: Rate Reform

Dear Senator Newman,

On behalf of the San Francisco Women's Political Committee (SFWPC), we are writing in strong support of SB380, which will update California's outdated childcare reimbursement program to ensure that providers are paid equitably.

SFWPC's mission is to endorse, empower, and elect people as candidates for local office who self-identify as women and those who share our values. SFWPC champions policies and candidates committed to advancing intersectional feminism, racial justice, gender equity, and equitable systems and structures through participation in the San Francisco political process. We provide an advocacy and political network to build a bench of diverse women candidates, activists, organizers, and leaders who will advance these goals at every level of governance and beyond.

SFWPC endorses policies that uplift all women and advance their economic opportunities. In the childcare industry, 94% are women and 40% are women of color.¹ Women, especially women of color, continue to face challenges because of systemic racism. One example is California's current childcare reimbursement model, which has historically underpaid childcare providers. The reimbursement rates to providers have increased only 28%, which is below the 40% rate of the state increase

¹ "Black Latina Child Care Providers," Education Trust. February 2022.
<https://edtrust.org/press-release/black-latina-child-care-providers-face-heaviest-burden-in-struggling-industry/>



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to minimum wage.² Unfair wages create a domino effect; first, childcare providers are not able to pay themselves and their staff living wages because the reimbursement rates are low then many leave the industry altogether. In January 2022, the California Chamber of Commerce estimated that 110,000 workers had left the childcare industry when the pandemic began, and 4,000 centers closed throughout the state³. According to the Los Angeles Times, childcare rates are 10% down from pre-pandemic levels.⁴ Fewer childcare workers limit parents from going to work and children from accessing the care that they need for healthy development.

We urge you to support SB380. By supporting this legislation, we recognize the valuable work of childcare providers, the impact of childcare on economic growth, and the importance of investing in our children.

Sincerely,

SFWPC Board of Directors

² "California Childcare Providers Need a Substantial Pay Raise, California Budget and Policy Center" March 2023. <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/californias-subsidized-child-care-providers-are-overdue-for-pay-raise/>

³ "Childcare Crisis," California Chamber of Commerce. January 2022. <https://advocacy.calchamber.com/policy/issues/child-care-crisis/>

⁴ "I am trying to stay afloat: California Parents Sound off on childcare crisis." Los Angeles times. January 19, 2023. <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2023-01-19/child-care-crisis-parents-cant-work>