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March 19, 2021

Ms. Keely Martin Bosler, Director
Department of Finance
Room 1145, State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Bosler:

In a letter dated March 12, 2021, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, pursuant to the provisions of Section 28.00 of the *2020-21 Budget Act*, of a request from the California Department of Education (CDE) for an increase in spending authority for Alternative Payment programs. Specifically, CDE is requesting an augmentation of expenditure authority of \$20 million from funds provided through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act to address a funding shortfall associated with providing reimbursements to child care providers who serve families enrolled with variable schedules. With these additional funds, reimbursements will continue to be based on the families' certified need and maximum authorized hours regardless of attendance through the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Child care providers, a workforce predominately made of women of color, have faced major challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. The families they serve are struggling too, trying to find ways to return to in-person work and school as all of our communities become vaccinated and the COVID-19 infection rate falls across the state. The \$20 million will help support the stability of the child care sector and ensure child care providers remain open to serve the in-person care and educational needs of the children of essential workers and other working families. Without this additional funding, providers will not be fully compensated when a child and their family choose or are required to shelter-in-place due to COVID-19. With a significant number of child care providers having already closed, the harm to the economy of losing more due to non-compensation cannot be tolerated.

In conclusion, I have reviewed the request and concur that the increased authority is aligned with the requirements of Section 28.00. The proposed use of the funds will provide financial support to child care providers which have struggled to stay open during the pandemic. In addition, I waive the 30-day review period in order to give CDE the authority to allocate these funds and promptly reimburse child care providers who serve low-income children and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Skinner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Skinner
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee