

County of Monterey



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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **S. 388, the Child Care for Every Community Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for S. 388, the Child Care for Every Community Act.

The Child Care for Every Community Act would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to coordinate an affordable child care and early learning program. The legislation provides a mandatory federal investment to establish and support a network of locally run Child Care and Early Learning Centers and Family Child Care Homes so that every family, regardless of their income or employment, can access high-quality, affordable child care options for their children from birth to school entry.

The legislation ensures parity by requiring that wages and benefits for child care workers be comparable to those of similarly credentialed local public school teachers and invests in worker training and professional development modeled after the military child care program.

The network of Centers and Family Child Care Homes would provide pre-K curriculum and educational services for children before they enter kindergarten. This legislation would also incentivize states and cities to expand their investments in early childhood education. The legislation builds on the successful federal Head Start program to create a universal system for families that cannot access Head Start services, while preserving the Head Start program for families eligible for those services. It also maintains the Child Care and Development Fund to help low-income families access other care options, including extended hours and afterschool care for children up to age 13.

We urge you to cosponsor S. 388 and thank you for your continued support for early learning and child care assistance programs.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair
Board of Supervisors