



County of Monterey

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March 11, 2024

Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4510
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: AB 2982 (Reyes) California Children and Families Act of 1998: working group. – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Reyes:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Assembly Bill (AB) 2982. This measure would help California move towards more effective, universal, and equity-focused systems and services for infants and toddlers.

California has made important strides in supporting young children and their families. The Master Plan for Early Care and Education and Whole Child Screening Tool established by AB 2832 (2022) made great strides but was primarily focused on early childhood education and childcare leaving significant gaps. It is time to focus on the needs of California's infants and toddlers and their families and address their needs comprehensively. Policies also need to uplift family and community strengths and affirm their cultures and languages given that 75% of our state's 0-3 population are children of color.

This bill will fill in the gaps left behind by AB 2832. AB 2982 would establish a 12-person working group to review current policies and practices at the state and local level related to infants, toddlers, and their families and make recommendations for improvements at all levels. The working group's review and recommendations shall focus on early childhood systems, including local First 5 infrastructure and needs, as well as working with state agencies to ensure alignment and partnership so that all of California's young children and their families can thrive. Lastly, this measure will outline additional recommendations for system building, including financing, data, and the needs of specific sub-populations of young children.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey is pleased to support AB 2982. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: Assembly Human Services Committee, Consultants
The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

