



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee

FROM: Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

DATE: May 10, 2024

RE: **AB 2982 (Reyes) California Children and Families Act of 1998: working group SUPPORT**

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

Sincerely,

Ashley Walker
Nossaman LLP

CC: Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, California State Assembly
Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District

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Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)