



California Child Care Resource & Referral

**NETWORK** CHILDREN NOW



January 26, 2012

Members of the California State Legislature  
State Capitol

**Re: OPPOSE Governor Brown’s proposal to decimate California’s child development system**

We are writing to express our strong **opposition** to Governor Brown’s proposal to cut child development programs by \$517 million, eliminating at least 62,000 children from vital early care and education programs. It is unacceptable to balance the budget on the backs of low-income infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families.

Early care and education programs have already lost a staggering \$1.2 billion since 2008, resulting in the loss of spaces in vital programs for over 100,000 children. This current drastic proposal would add another half a billion dollar cut by:

- slashing program eligibility – lowering family income levels; requiring stricter CalWORKS work requirements and denying some recipients access to child care
- reducing reimbursement rates to providers – for both contracted and voucher programs

In addition to the dramatic cut in access for low-income children, the Governor proposes to decimate California’s system of high-quality early learning programs by shifting all but one program to County Welfare agencies, dismantling the early learning system that was designed to ensure a level of quality for low income children throughout the state. Block granting child care funds also opens the door for elimination of these services for families.

Early care and education is crucial to the long-term economic viability of the state. High-quality early learning programs for low-income children significantly narrow the achievement gap, reduce the high school dropout rate, and produce savings from lower costs in special education, welfare, recidivism/prisons and crime. Eliminating the programs requiring an educational component and focusing only on the work support element of child care is ineffective.

We strongly urge you to reject the Governor’s proposed cuts to child development.

Thank you for supporting California’s youngest learners,

Molly Munger, Co-Director, Advancement Project

Linda Asato, Executive Director, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

Ted Lempert, President, Children Now

Catherine Atkin, President, Preschool California

Tahra M. Goraya, Western Office Director, ZERO TO THREE