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COMMITTEES  
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UTILITIES AND ENERGY  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON  
EDUCATION FINANCE  
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State of California  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon  
Speaker, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219

Assemblymember Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026

Senator Toni Atkins  
President Pro Tempore, California State  
Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205

Senator Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and  
Fiscal Review  
State Capitol, Room 5019

**RE: Budget Request for support Head Start agencies in TK transition**

This letter is to request a **\$50 million appropriation in the 2021-22 budget for grants to support Head Start programs as they navigate the impacts of the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten in California.**

Head Start programs in California operate over 1,700 sites across the state and serve the most at-risk children and families with early learning and wraparound services. These programs are nationally recognized for their high quality, whole-child, whole-family approach, and for their foundation of increasing racial and economic equity.

The expansion of Transitional Kindergarten to serve all four-year olds has serious implications for Head Start programs. As four-year olds constitute nearly 60% of Head Start funding in California, these programs cannot easily shift their funding to serve more 0-3 year-olds. It involves a re-application of Early Head Start grant funding and an approval process by the federal Office of Head Start. Without additional fiscal support that is equitable to the support provided to other parts of the mixed-delivery system, the ability of Head Start programs to

accommodate this change will be jeopardized.

**For this reason, I request your strong consideration and approval of a \$50 million appropriation in the 2021-22 budget for grants to assist Head Start programs in building agency capacity, recruiting and retaining a growing workforce, and identifying more Head Start eligible families.** Additionally, these funds would be used to expand services to serve more children and families and provide expanded, non-traditional hours of care.

As a member of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, former Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee, and Member of Speaker Rendon's Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Early Childhood Education, one of my top priorities is to ensure we make critical investments in our state's system of early education and care. This request is consistent with the BRC Report, which specifically recognizes the critical role of Head Start in California's mixed-delivery system and recommends state investment in Head Start.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide Shannon Flores at [shannon.flores@asm.ca.gov](mailto:shannon.flores@asm.ca.gov) or (916) 319-2047.

Sincerely,



Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes  
47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



David Chiu  
Assemblymember, 17<sup>th</sup> District



Marie Waldron  
Assemblymember, 75<sup>th</sup> District

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Assemblymember, 72<sup>nd</sup> District

Buffy Wicks  
Assemblymember, 15<sup>th</sup> District

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Assemblymember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

Laura Friedman  
Assemblymember, 43<sup>rd</sup> District

Cristina Garcia  
Assemblymember, 58<sup>th</sup> District

Jordan Cunningham  
Assemblymember, 35<sup>th</sup> District

Mark Stone  
Assemblymember, 29<sup>th</sup> District

Wendy Carrillo  
Assemblymember, 51<sup>st</sup> District

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Assemblymember, 57<sup>th</sup> District

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Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> District



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