

**Date:** May 12, 2010  
**For Immediate Release**

Patty Siegel (415) 279-0234 cell on site  
Sarah Moore (415) 882-0234 office

**California Child Care/Early Care and Education  
now placed on the endangered species list**

**SACRAMENTO**, Calif., May 18, 2010 – In response to the Governor’s Budget May Revision 2010-11 which proposes an unprecedented \$2.3 billion combined elimination of CalWORKS and General Fund support for California’s neediest children and families (\$1.1 billion CalWORKS and \$1.2 billion General Fund), child care and early care and education advocates launched the “Campaign to Save Child Care!” in opposition to the cuts. More than 200 campaign supporters including parents, providers, directors, teachers, resource and referral programs, alternative payment providers, local planning councils, and organizations committed to quality, accessible, affordable child care will attend the Joint Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 and #2 hearing to demonstrate their united opposition to the dismantling of California’s child care system.

Although his proposals exempt the state’s part-day preschool and ASES afterschool programs, the overall proposal will destroy California’s long-established system of child care services that support the dual goals of helping parents earn and children learn. Since the end of WWII, California has recognized the value and importance of providing child care services to working families and their children. Our 68-year-old system has evolved to provide care to young children in a variety of settings – home and center based – that meet the needs of our diverse working families.

The campaign supporters are outraged that the Governor has proposed this massive dismantling of a child care system that provides jobs for:

- 100,000 parents<sup>1</sup> working and contributing to California’s struggling economy
- More than 130,000 child care providers<sup>2</sup>, including licensed family child care homes and paid assistants; center staff (directors, teachers, and assistants); and license-exempt child providers<sup>3</sup> serving low-income families

The proposed massive elimination of child care services will result not only in lost employment for low income working parents and their child care teachers and providers, but also in endangered child safety and lost learning opportunities for the 200,000 young children<sup>4</sup> who would be jerked from their child care programs beginning July 1, 2010. Brain research demonstrates that early education experiences – from birth to age five – are critical in determining whether a child’s brain develops a proper foundation for learning and success in school and later life. Eliminating child care and early learning opportunities literally imperils our children’s capacity for learning.

-MORE-

Campaign Coordinator, Patty Siegel, of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, stated, “Rome was not built in a day, nor was our child care system. Our centers and home-based providers – the foundation of our system – cannot put their programs on pause while we wait for California’s economy to pick up. This radical budget surgery will result in the permanent loss of child care facilities, teachers and staff throughout the state, leaving California even less prepared for the economic rebound forecasted for the not-so-distant future.”

The threat to dismantle the entire child care system is not only outrageous in its scope but irresponsible, leaving the child care field in limbo. This kind of anxiety pulsing throughout the state will result in hiring freezes, staff layoffs, and frozen enrollment beginning in the next few weeks. Employment opportunities for parents will be jeopardized without the guarantee of subsidized child care, creating further economic insecurity in the state. Equally devastating, California’s youngest children will lose access to our highest quality child care programs.

Campaign support has grown to 50 organizations and is expected to reach more than 300 by the end of the week. They stand united in their opposition to this wholesale dismantling of California’s child care system. The proposal cannot become a negotiation tool for accepting the Governor’s January budget proposals. Beginning today, campaign supporters will document and share the impact of this proposal on children, parents, providers and the communities they serve, and bring it to the immediate attention of Assembly members and Senators. “We cannot accept corporate tax breaks at the expense of young children. This is a campaign for California’s future – a future that must address economic equity and close examination of who wins and who loses in this budget scheme” exclaimed Donna Sneeringer, Public Affairs Manager of Child Action, Inc., in Sacramento.

Campaign supporters will be available for comment before and during the hearing. A list of supporters as of 5pm on May 18, 2010 is included below.

<sup>1</sup> Estimated by dividing the total number of children in threatened programs served by two. This estimate assumes an average family size of three with one adult and two children being served.

<sup>2</sup> Number of licensed family child care home and center-based program staff impacted was calculated by applying the percentage of licensed programs serving children receiving vouchers reported in the 2006 California Early Care and Education Workforce Study to updated 2008 supply data. These estimates were combined with the number of CDE, General Child Care state-contracted centers published in the *2009 California Child Care Portfolio* to estimate the overall number of child care providers serving children receiving vouchers or in state-contracted programs impacted by proposed budget cuts.

<sup>3</sup> Number of license-exempt providers impacted was calculated by first applying the percentage of children served in license-exempt settings in cut programs to the total number of children losing care. Total number of providers was calculated by dividing the total number of children in license-exempt care by two. This estimate assumes license-exempt providers serve an average of two children.

<sup>4</sup> Difference between maximum enrollment for FY 2009-10 revised budget and 2010-11 May Revise proposed maximum enrollment.

## Initial Supporters

4 C's of Alameda County  
Advancement Project  
Bananas, Inc.  
California Alternative Payment Program Association  
California Child Care Coordinators Association  
California Child Care Resource and Referral Network  
California Child Development Administrators Association  
California Community College Early Childhood Educators  
California School Age Consortium  
Campus Kids Connection, Inc.  
Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley  
Central Valley Children's Services Network  
Changing Tides Family Services  
Child Action, Inc.  
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles  
Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County  
Child Care Resource Center, Inc.  
Child Development Inc.  
Child Development Policy Institute  
Child Development Resources of Ventura County  
Children Now  
Children's Council of San Francisco  
Choices for Children  
Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County  
Community Voices  
Connections for Children  
Contra Costa Child Care Council  
Crystal Stairs, Inc.  
Del Norte Child Care Council  
Family Resource and Referral Center, San Joaquin County  
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids CA  
Infant/Child Enrichment Services  
Kidango  
Merced County Office of Education Resource and Referral Network  
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation  
Northern Directors Group  
Parent Voices  
Preschool California  
Service Employees International Union  
Shasta County Office of Education  
Solano Family and Children's Services  
South Central Training and Research Consortium  
The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
The Link to Children  
The Resource Connection  
Valley Oak Children's Services  
Wu Yee Children's Services  
YMCA Child Care Resource Service  
ZERO TO THREE Western Office

###END###