

Sample letter to Budget Conference Committee Members
(see following page for individual fax and e-mail addresses)

Date

To Members of the Budget Conference Committee:

As an educator in early education preparation programs, I urge you to support the use of Proposition 98 funds for early care and education investments that are foundational to ensuring families throughout the state have access to quality child care and preschool. We ask that you prioritize the following quality improvement efforts that are part of the Assembly package and will be conference items:

- 1) Community College ECE Consortia. Investment of \$30 million one-time Proposition 98 funds that will strengthen and sustain the Community College ECE laboratory schools.
 - This three-year investment would support local implementation of evidenced-based professional preparation and development, with a primary focus on aligning and raising the quality of training opportunities offered through community college laboratory schools.
 - These lab schools not only provide essential child care and development opportunities for children of community college students; they deliver critical training to the ECE workforce.
 - This proposal is a smart use of one-time Proposition 98 funding to support and strengthen ECE infrastructure for children birth through five, their parents and caregivers/teachers.

- 2) Professional development for teachers, aides and caregivers working in state subsidized early childhood programs. Investment of \$25 million of one-time Proposition 98 funds.

Efforts to ensure the quality of state preschool and child care programs must include professional development (PD) for teachers, aides, and caregivers, so that those working with young children have opportunity to:

- Learn about new evidence-based practices including adult-child interactions;
 - Experience supports such as practice-based coaching and mentoring;
 - Gain better understanding of the expectations for kindergarten and elementary students as reflected in school Local Control Accountability Plans.
- 3) Infant and Toddler QRIS block grant. Investment of \$25 million to expand the current state preschool QRIS block grant to include infant and toddler settings.
 - Build on the existing infrastructure of the QRIS block grant to ensure infant and toddler programs have access to quality improvement supports through a local QRIS.

Please help advance these proposals so that they are part of the final budget package sent to Governor Brown.

Thank you for your leadership and efforts on behalf of California's youngest learners.

Sincerely,
Your Name

Budget Conference Committee Members (Conferees)

Senator Mark Leno
Chair, Budget Conference Committee
Fax: 916.651.4911
E-mail: senator.leno@senate.ca.gov

Senator Ricardo Lara
Budget Conference Committee
Fax: 916.651.4933
Email: senator.lara@senate.ca.gov

Senator Jim Nielsen
Budget Conference Committee
Fax: 916.651.4904
Email: senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov

Assembly Member Shirley Weber
Co-chair, Budget Conference Committee
Fax: 916.319.2179
Email: assemblymember.weber@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly Member Richard Bloom
Budget Conference Committee
FAX: 916.319.2150
Email: assemblymember.bloom@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly Member Melissa Melendez
Budget Conference Committee
FAX: 916.319.2167
Email: assemblymember.melendez@assembly.ca.gov