First 5 LA and Early Edge California Celebrate AB 378 Signing as Big Victory for Family Childcare Providers, Children, and Families

California Early Learning Groups, First 5 LA and Early Edge California, praised family childcare providers in California for their long-fought victory for collective bargaining rights and improved early childhood education that culminated with Governor Newsom signing AB 378 on September 30, 2019. This year’s legislation was achieved after more than a decade of work by family childcare providers—who are predominantly women and people of color—to lift themselves out of poverty, prioritize training and professional development, and better address the educational needs of children and families in our state.

The two groups applauded the leadership and vision of Governor Newsom, the authors of AB 378, Asms. Limón and Gonzalez, as well as the unions who sponsored the legislation, SEIU Locals 99 and 521, and AFSCME UDW. This new law will lead to higher quality early learning across the state by improving training, professional development, and retention for the caregivers of our youngest infants and children through their ability to collective bargain.

Highlighting the signing of AB 378 as a huge win for children and families in California, Kim Pattillo Brownson, Vice President for Policy and Strategy of First 5 LA, stated, “This important law will help our youngest children by helping family childcare workers have greater stability and decent wages so they can stay in the field and continue to enrich the lives of the children they serve. This is a ‘win-win-win’ because it helps young children through quality early education, it helps parents be productive in the workforce, and it helps providers with greater stability, less turnover in the classroom, and better training and retention of a vital workforce.”

Early Edge California supported AB 378 because it will lead to additional investments in the family childcare providers who educate our children and improved childcare quality. Patricia Lozano, Executive Director of Early Edge California, said, “AB 378 is a critical step towards investing in our family childcare providers by increasing their wages and their opportunities for training so they can provide the best care to our kids.”

Adapted from the Governor's Press Release:
California's 2019-2020 state budget includes support for the Early Learning workforce
to get additional education, training and professional development, expand their childcare facilities, and begin data collection for the unionization process. Early Learning advocates are grateful for the Governor and Legislature’s commitment to supporting young children and their families.

### Early Childhood State Budget Summary
The 2019-2020 California state budget includes a $2.3 billion increase for early childhood programs and supports, including:

- $195 million for education/training grants and other supports for the early learning and care workforce
- $263 million for early learning and care facilities (includes centers and family childcare homes)
- $143.3 million to increase access to subsidized childcare for approximately 12,400 income-eligible children ages 0-12
- $31.4 million ($124.9 million ongoing) to increase access to State Preschool for 10,000 income-eligible children in community-based organizations, and expand eligibility to all families in school attendance areas where at least 80 percent of students qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- $5 million to develop a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care
- $2.2 million to improve childcare quality
- Two weeks of additional Paid Family Leave (PFL) and taskforce to consider options to achieve six months of paid parental leave to increase ability of parents to support early health and development and to decrease the need for reliance on expensive infant childcare
- $53.9 million for developmental screenings of infants and toddlers at 9, 18, and 30 months
- $40.8 million for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) screenings of young children and adults receiving Medi-Cal
- $135.5 million for voluntary CalWORKs and other Home Visiting Programs
- $19.4 million for Black Infant Health to improve African-American maternal and infant health

### Early Childhood Bill Update for California
Governor Newsom also signed the following early childhood bills into law:

**AB 1004 (McCarty)** – Requires improved data collection by the Department of Health Care Services and Medi-Cal Managed Health Care plans to help ensure that children are receiving developmental screenings in the first three years of life.
AB 406 (Limón) – Requires by January 1, 2025 the translation of the paid family leave benefits application into languages spoken by a substantial number of applicants.

AB 220 (Bonta) – Permits candidates to use campaign funds for childcare expenses incurred while the candidate is engaging in campaign activities, which can encourage more parents to run for office.

SB 234 (Skinner) – Signed by the Governor earlier this month, prohibits local governments from requiring large family childcare homes to have a business license or from charging related taxes or permit fees.