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March 24, 2003

RECEIVED  
APR 02 2003

The Honorable Joseph Simitian  
State Capitol, room 5119  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Support for AB 1326 – San Mateo County Child Care Subsidy Pilot

Dear Assemblyman Simitian:

The Board of Directors of Palcare, Inc., a San Mateo County nonprofit 501c3 organization serving young children and families, has directed to me to express their support of AB 1326.

Palcare has provided quality child care and development services to over 200 families annually for the past ten years. For the past six years we have contracted with the State Department of Education Child Development Division to provide subsidized child care to a growing number of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The legislation you have introduced will have a tremendous positive impact on low income families needing child care in our county. We have been part of a ten year local advocacy effort to influence the State to revise the family eligibility, fee scale, reimbursement policies that govern Child Development Funding. For the past year and a half I have participated as a member of the San Mateo Child Care Partnership Council and the San Mateo Quality Consortium of State-Funded Child Development Programs as the concept of this legislation was developed. We were so pleased when you agreed to draft and introduce AB 1326.

If enacted, AB 1326 would permit waivers of specific rules governing family eligibility, fee scale, and reimbursement rates, as well as permit some flexibility between contracts. A planning and assessment process conducted by the Child Care Partnership Council would enable changes that more effectively address the cost of living, child care and housing for families in our high cost County. Over the past few years, many of our families have found themselves suddenly ineligible for child care subsidy assistance when they receive their first pay raise. Fragile families lost their subsidized child care completely, before they could not afford to pay for the full cost of care on their own. All the gains they made toward self-sufficiency were undone. They left us to return to welfare, move from the area, or simply disappear. AB 1326 will give San Mateo County the opportunity to remedy the inequity in the subsidy system that takes no account of local economic realities in San Mateo County.

We are very pleased that AB 1326 will allow us to continue Palcare's direct contract with the Department of Education. We embrace the accountability and quality standards of the Department of Education and believe that Child Development belongs with Education. AB 1326 does not interfere with this important relationship, but does our local economic realities and family needs to be addressed. It will be so good for San Mateo County families. You have our full support!

Sincerely,  
*Robert Noto*  
Robert Noto  
President, Palcare Board

*Nirmala Dillman*  
Nirmala Dillman  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Byron Sher, Senate District 11  
Honorable Jackie Speier, Senate District 8  
Honorable Gene Mullin, Assembly District 19  
Honorable Leland Yee, Assembly District 12  
Supervisor Mark Church, San Mateo County & Co-Chair Child Care Partnership Council  
Superintendent John Mehl, San Mateo County & Co-Chair Child Care Partnership Council