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February 28, 2017

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 273 (Aguiar-Curry) – Support

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the California Women’s Law Center (CWLC), we are writing in support of AB 273, which would include English as a Second Language (ESL) and High School Equivalency (HSE) classes on the list of eligible vocational training courses that qualify for state supported child care services.

Under existing law, parents that meet income criteria and are engaged in vocational training courses leading directly to a trade or profession are eligible for state supported child care services. However, courses in ESL and/or HSE do not qualify as a type of vocational training, so parents taking these classes are not eligible for subsidized child care under the current law.

CWLC recognizes that parents who are taking classes to improve their English language proficiency or working to earn their HSE certificate are taking the steps necessary to enter vocational training. Many families require state supported child care services in order to continue education and work toward a profession. Costly child care services may prove burdensome for lower income families which disproportionately impacts single mothers and women of color.

CWLC’s mission is to advance the potential of women and girls with transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. AB 273 would give families greater access to subsidized child care services by adding enrollment in ESL and HSE courses to the existing eligibility requirements, thereby eliminating unnecessary barriers to educational opportunities for parents.

For all of these reasons, the California Women’s Law Center supports AB 273.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler
Executive Director