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Betsy Butler

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1020 N Street, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 60 (Santiago) – Support

Dear Senator Portantino,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of Assembly Bill 60, which ensures that families receiving child care through CalWORKs have continuity and stability in care by streamlining the process between the various application stages.

AB 60 was first introduced last year and enacted through the Budget Act of 2017. The bill guaranteed at least 12 months of continuous affordable child care for eligible families and has provided stability for many families, eliminating the burdensome paperwork requirements that caused families to lose their care. But working families still face unnecessary disruptions in child care as they transition through the CalWORKs child care stages, forcing them to forego work, limit their work hours, or struggle to pay for child care they cannot afford.

The updated AB 60 ensures that families will not experience an unnecessary break in services by requiring counties to share their data via limited access to the county level Statewide Automated Welfare System database. Consistency in child care is critical to a parent's ability to work and improve their job prospects and earning potential. Continuity of care creates the stability necessary for a child's healthy development. AB 60's technological solution will ensure that working parents' child care is not interrupted during the CalWORKs child care transfer process.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. We recognize the importance of ensuring stability for California families and promoting the healthy development of children.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 60.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director