



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD

THIRD DISTRICT

September 5, 2019

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 234 (Skinner) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

As a City Councilmember and parent in San Diego, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 234 (Skinner), to encourage more family child care homes, because parents like me need quality, safe child care that is close to home.

Family child care homes are a community asset, the primary source of affordable care for babies and toddlers, offering a warm environment with flexible hours. But parents face a desperate shortage when looking for child care, especially for their babies and toddlers. This need is especially acute in San Diego where 44 percent of working parents do not have an available child care spot, according to a recent study.¹ Statewide, licensed child care is available for only 23% of children with working parents.² One third of our child care providers have been forced to close their doors since 2006.³

Nearly 40 years ago, California recognized the importance of family child care when the Legislature established protections for family child care homes in communities through the Child Day Care Facilities Act (CDCFA). But this law has not kept pace with our needs, and loopholes have resulted in uneven application by cities and counties, burdensome local regulations, and insufficient housing protections. SB 234 will update the law by:

- Requiring local governments to treat large family child care homes the same as small family child care homes – a use by right, residential use of property in their local ordinances;
- Clarifying that licensed family child care homes may operate in apartments and other multifamily units while maintaining state fire and licensing safety requirements;
- Clarifying housing protections so providers are not prohibited from living in a home solely because they care for children;

¹ San Diego County: A Study of Child Care Needs and Barriers, The Nonprofit Institute, University of San Diego, *available at* <https://digital.sandiego.edu/npi-youth/3/> (2018).

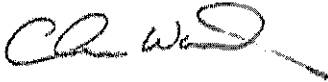
² The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, *Child Care Data*, *available at* <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-data>, "Availability of Child Care for Working Families" (2017).

³ The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, *Child Care Data*, *available at* <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-data>, "Licensed Child Care Facilities, by Type" (2017).

- Requiring the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division to inform family child care providers that remedies and procedures under the Fair Employment and Housing Act are available to them if their rights under the CDCFA are disregarded.

This bill will help cities like San Diego encourage more child care facilities and as a result, help parents, child care providers and communities to nurture our kids so they are safe and healthy and ready to thrive in school and in life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ch Ward", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Ward
Councilmember, Third District
City of San Diego

Cc: Senator Nancy Skinner