



June 16, 2021

Following the legislature's passage of recommendations to the ongoing state budget draft, Tamika Farr, the CEO of Pathways LA, released the following statement:

"I support many of the updates passed by the state legislature to the ongoing budget draft. The inclusion of substantive investments in Early Childhood Education (ECE) for allocations of over \$1 billion in rate reform and the expansion of 200,000 additional child care slots will provide relief to vulnerable families and child care providers across California. I commend the legislature for creating these long-awaited policies that puts the wellbeing of children and caregivers at the forefront of the state budget, and call on Governor Newsom to include the legislature's key amendments in the final budget agreement.

I am also encouraged that a \$267 billion budget forecast passed along party lines to help infuse serious investments to build our state stronger. Specifically, the more than \$25 billion going toward the state's General Fund reserves will help address other key areas of the ECE industry.

Childcare is not a partisan issue. Pathways LA has long argued that high quality early care and education investments are critical to creating strong, healthy families. Ensuring our providers receive equitable wages and expanding child care slots for families in need of care are essential steps to repairing a fractured ECE field, but much more work is needed. While negotiations between the state legislature and the Governor continue in the following weeks, both sides must keep the best interests of California's invaluable child care providers and the children they care for at the centerpiece of their decisions."

About Pathways LA

Pathways LA is committed to the healthy development and school readiness of young children from disadvantaged communities. Driven by data and innovation, our experts support the continuum of care that includes parents, childcare providers, community partners, and policymakers. Learn more at:

<https://pathwaysla.org/>

For questions or to arrange an interview with Tamika Farr, please contact: Jennifer Dekel, Jennifer@miller-ink.com or Emily Kopsick, emily.kopsick@miller-ink.com