

## SECURE INVESTMENTS FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### »» EXPAND PAID FAMILY LEAVE (PFL)



Research shows that the time that a parent spends with their newborn is crucial for the emotional, social, and cognitive development of the child. The most important time for brain development is the start of life in the womb through the first year. Parents should be able to care full time for their baby during this crucial period while being paid fully from their jobs.

California offers up to 8 weeks of paid time off up to 60-70% depending on income. This is not enough time off for parents to care for newborns. Extending PFL will allow critical time for baby bonding or caring for a loved one and will strengthen families while eliminating added stress to parents confronted with the prospect of losing finances during a family emergency.

### »» EXPAND HOME VISITATIONS

Home visitations promote positive parent practices that help better prepare children for learning. Studies show that parents enrolled in-home visitation programs are more likely to have safe play environments, provide the right toys and books for children to nurture and learn, and engage in teaching activities. Home visitations have also proven to reduce child abuse and neglect and improve a child's overall school readiness.

Since the start of the pandemic, demand for home visitations has skyrocketed across the nation. Interactions with coaches and educators are invaluable during a time of stress such as the pandemic. Home visitations also help mitigate domestic violence, something that has increased in households exponentially during the pandemic.



Nationally, visitation programs offer a return on investments ranging from

**\$1.75 to \$5.70**

for every dollar spent due to the reduced cost of child protection.