

## SB 867 Position Paper

SB 867 calls for a collective bargaining agreement between the state and family child care and license exempt providers with the goal of reducing provider turnover. The bill would designate a single provider organization and give authority to:

- Create a substitute pool
- Provide business & marketing education
- Act as negotiating agent with their licensing agency
- Act as negotiating agent to increase their payments
- Require the collection of dues & fees from subsidy dollars

**PACE OPPOSES THIS BILL.** At a time when California's budget experiences chronic deficits, stagnant revenues, and severe cuts, scarce child care subsidy funds must be protected from wasteful duplication and reduction in services to children. Collective bargaining agreements siphon scarce subsidy funds away from children in need toward newly created administrative layers and processes. Union dues and non-member service fees divert funds away from direct care of children and hamper expansion of care to children on the waiting list.

Collective bargaining in subsidized programs will further erode the ever shrinking state funding. It would create a dual system of care. Private care funded by parent payments would be operating by higher standards to respond to consumer's demands in a competitive full cost market. Subsidized care in low income communities will face diminishing resources to maintain quality and integrity of their programs.

PACE supports an early care and education system where:

- Existing associations and agencies provide substitute, business, & marketing services, in addition to the on-going conferences regarding the Licensing system;
- Every subsidy dollar for direct services is laser focused to provide high quality care and education of low income children in need;
- Subsidy rates are set by market forces, not artificially inflated;
- High quality early care and education is provided in licensed programs to ensure children's health and safety;
- The environments are designed for children's learning;
- Responsive, trained ECE professionals foster children's overall development.

PACE endorses a subsidized child care system where the limited dollars for the poor are not compromised by collective bargaining agreements. Any measure which artificially increases costs at the expense of children in need of subsidy is not in the best interest of promoting quality, professionalism or capacity building and would destabilize the existing subsidized child care system which has empowered low income families for 32 years.

The Professional Association for Childhood Education (PACE) represents over 1,000 licensed early care and education centers throughout California, 10,000 members and more than 62,000 children. Our advocacy on behalf of children includes the promotion of continuing early childhood education for teachers and administrators, the benefits of licensed early care and education providers, and fostering networking among our professionals. To reach us, please contact (800) 924-2460 or [www.pacenet.org](http://www.pacenet.org).