September 27, 2017

Re: Request for Signature on Assembly Bill 1520 (Burke)

Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing in support of Assembly Bill 1520, the Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Act, which passed the Legislature with bipartisan support and without one dissenting vote. There was realization that AB 1520 is a necessary step in building on the measures that have been taken to reduce child poverty through the development of a comprehensive and data-driven plan.

There is a need for urgent action. California is the sixth largest economy in the world, yet it has the highest rate of child poverty in the country (20.6%), according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure. This is a human and fiscal crisis: California can and should do better for its children.

AB 1520 is a smart approach that brings together experts, leaders and stakeholders from inside and outside government to develop an overall plan that is the first necessary step in providing a foundation for action. That is why organizations throughout California support the bill, including children's organizations, local governments and business and religious groups.

Just as it has done on climate change and infrastructure, California can set a model for the nation in reducing poverty by creating this Task Force to establish a plan to invest in proven programs that will significantly reduce child poverty.

The 137 undersigned organizations strongly support this important legislation and hope you will sign it into law.

cc: Honorable Autumn Burke, Assemblymember, 62nd District
Camille Wagner, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
Lark Park, Senior Advisor for Policy, Office of the Governor
Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
All Five
All Stars Helping Kids
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Asian Health Services
BANANAS, Inc.
Bay Area Council
Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA)
Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove (BGCGG)
Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County
Brighter Beginnings
California Alliance of African American Educators (CAAAE)
California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA)
California Center for Rural Policy
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
California Children's Hospital
California Children's Hospital Association
California Newsreel
California Partnership
California School-Age Consortium
Californians for Quality Early Learning
CAPPA Children's Foundation
CASA of Merced County
Catholic Charities- San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo
Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children, Inc.
Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR)
Center for Local Income Mobility (CLIMB) at San Diego Workforce Partnership
Central California Children's Institute
Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County
Children Now
Children's Network of Solano County
Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth
Common Sense Kids Action
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley
Community Social Model Advocates
Contra Costa Child Care Council
Cope Family Center
Crystal Stairs, Inc.
D'inkling Publishing
Diablo Valley College Early Childhood Department
Dorris Dann Kids Campus
Early Edge California
East Side Union High School District Child Development Program
Educate Our State
Educate78
Escuela de la Raza Unida
First 5 Alameda County
First 5 Association of California
First 5 California
First 5 Fresno County
First 5 Humboldt
First 5 LA
First 5 San Luis Obispo County
First 5 San Mateo County
First 5 Santa Clara County
First 5 Santa Cruz
First 5 Shasta
First 5 Sonoma County
First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, UCC
Footsteps Child Care, Inc.
For Our Babies
Fresno Housing Authority
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Friends of the Family
Funding the Next Generation
Future is Now
GRACE
Great Beginnings for Black Babies, Inc.
Half Moon Bay Brewing Company
Harbour Consulting
Healing Hearts "One at a Time"
Healthy Cities Tutoring
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley
Howard Watkins Photography
InnerCity Struggle
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Jumpstart
Kidango, Inc.
Kids in Common, a program of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
Krause Center for Innovation
Little Manila Foundation
Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)
Making Change for Children
Maternal and Child Health Access
Mi Familia Vota
MomsRising/ MamásConPoder
Morgan Family Foundation
NAACP Pomona Valley
New Teacher Center
North Bay Leadership Council
Nurse-Family Partnership
Optimal Solutions Consulting
Our Family Coalition
P.S. ARTS
Partners In Impact
Peninsula Family Service
PICO California
Plumas CASA
Prevent Blindness Northern California/See Well to Learn
Public Profit
Quality Matters Monterey County
Rape Counseling Services of Fresno
Reading and Beyond
Regarding Baby
Restorative Schools Vision Project
Rise Together
RYSE Center
Sacramento Children's Home
Sacramento Covered
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
San Carlos Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley NAACP
San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)
Santa Clara County Board of Education
Solano Community Foundation
Special Needs Network
St. Mary's Center
Stanislaus Community Foundation
The Basic Fund
The Big Lift
The Gabriella Foundation
The GreenHouse
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
The Rhythmic Arts Project
The Village Family Services
The Women's Foundation of California
Tikun Olam Foundation
Trauma Camp
Valley Oak Children's Services
Venture Leadership Consulting
Vision to Learn
VIVA Strategy + Communications
Women's Empowerment
WOW Explorations
YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
Young Minds Advocacy Project
Youth Justice Coalition