

Assembly Bill 679

Food with Care – Fair Pay for Child Care Providers. Healthy Meals for Kids.
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (AD-14)

BILL SUMMARY

AB 679 will bring equity to child care nutrition programs by eliminating the supplemental State Meal Reimbursement rate gap for feeding young children in family child care settings.

EXISTING LAW

Provides that it is the policy of this state that no child be hungry while attending a preschool program, and that preschools have an obligation to provide for the nutritional needs of children in attendance.

Establishes the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) as a state and federally funded Child Nutrition Program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, child care homes, and adult daycare centers.

State law also unfairly requires family daycare homes to be reimbursed for only 75 percent of the meals served to kids in their care.

THE ISSUE

All children deserve to be well nourished and thrive. But California fails to fairly invest in nourishing our youngest learners and supporting child care providers.

Each year, providers absorb hundreds of millions of dollars in costs for meals served to children, despite the fact that they are already operating on razor thin margins.

Existing state law creates an inequitable gap that keeps family child care home providers from receiving the full state reimbursement for meals served to children in their care. This gap means home-based child care providers receive no state funding for one out of every four meals they serve.

California's child care system undervalues and underpays essential labor historically performed by Black, Latina, and immigrant women. Ending the reimbursement gap is one important step toward eliminating those inequities.

THE SOLUTION

Eliminate the discriminatory reimbursement rate gap that underpays and undervalues family child care home providers serving healthy meals to kids in their care.

SUPPORT

Nourish California (Cosponsor)
CACFP Roundtable (Cosponsor)

OPPOSITION

None on file

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