

February 6, 2024

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
1900 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Members of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing,

On behalf of Californians Together, we would like to express our gratitude to the Commission for convening the expert workgroup tasked with identifying recommendations to update the Child Development Permit as outlined in 4D. We commend your efforts to ensure that these revisions align with the current needs in the field and the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care. As this work progresses, we wish to highlight two critical recommendations for consideration.

First, the Master Plan underscores the significance of specialized training and preparation to effectively address dual language development. Given that nearly 60% of children from birth to age five in our state are Dual Language Learners (DLLs), it is paramount that their needs are at the forefront of the revisions to the Child Development Permit. Therefore, we strongly urge the workgroup to integrate comprehensive training on dual language development into the permit requirements for all candidates.

Second, we recommend establishing accessible pathways for candidates, particularly those who are non-English speakers or bilingual, to obtain specialized credentials. These credentials should enable providers to offer programs and support in languages other than English. We advocate for offering specialized home language support and bilingual coursework tailored to the needs of these candidates. By doing so, we aim to support bilingualism and ensure equitable access to early childhood education for all children.

We firmly believe that prioritizing these recommendations will enhance the effectiveness of the revised Child Development Permit, better meeting the diverse needs of California's children and contributing to the overall quality of early childhood education in our state. Once again, we appreciate the Commission's dedication to this crucial work and eagerly anticipate the positive impact of these revisions on the field of early childhood education.

Thank you for your attention to these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Martha Hernandez | Executive Director