**Sample Support Letter – AB 123 (McCarty) – Pre-K for All**

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**Submit online at** [**https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)

**Send Copy To:** **suzy.costa@asm.ca.gov****,** **msparvensky@kidango.org**

**Date – Please Submit by April 15**

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Committee on Education

1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 123 (McCarty) Pre-K for All – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair O’Donnell:

**[Name of Your Organization]** supports AB 123 (McCarty), which would expand access to full-day, full-year preschool, raise preschool quality and increase teacher salaries and qualifications to help close the school readiness gap.

Research shows that high-quality preschool improves a child’s school readiness and social-emotional development and builds a foundation for future success. The benefits of high-quality preschool are especially powerful for disadvantaged children who often enter kindergarten behind their peers and struggle to catch up.

California has made progress in expanding access to preschool through State Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Head Start. However, 30% of low-income 4-year-olds and 66% of low-income 3-year-olds still lack access to licensed preschool.

AB 123 provides high-quality preschool to the children who need it most in order to set children on a path to success in school and in life. The bill expands access to full-day, full-year preschool for all 4-year-olds who live in a neighborhood where more than 70% of students are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals and ensures that all 3-year-olds in poverty receive two years of high-quality preschool.

AB 123 increases salaries and qualifications of preschool teachers to support children’s learning, and provides scholarships for teachers to pursue higher education in early learning fields. The bill incentivizes school districts to provide additional adult support in Transitional Kindergarten classrooms to reduce the teacher-child ratio and provide full school-day programs.

Ultimately, AB 123 builds a more unified preschool system by aligning standards and making it easier to blend State Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Head Start to provide high-quality, full-day, full-year preschool to children and meet the needs of working families. For these reasons, we strongly support AB 123 and respectfully urge your “Aye” vote.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**