

May 2021 Legislative Newsletter

We are uplifted as the month of May blooms with opportunities to strengthen the future for California's kids! Following Governor Newsom's May Revise budget release last Friday, Council for a Strong America's California Director Shelly Masur responded with the following statement:

*On behalf of Council for a Strong America, and our members of **ReadyNation**, **Fight Crime: Invest in Kids**, and **Mission: Readiness**, I am encouraged and optimistic about many of Governor Newsom's proposed investments in children and youth in his May revise proposal. However, in a year where the child care industry put themselves at risk while providing the essential infrastructure to keep our state functioning, we are very disappointed to see virtually no investments in this critical and fragile system that is truly the backbone of our economy.*

At Council for a Strong America we believe that investing in children and youth, from early childhood to workforce preparation, is critical for building a better California. We are heartened by the proposed additional 100,000 child care slots to serve California's youngest population, as well as increased investments in afterschool programs, full-service community schools, children's health and nutrition and higher education. Nevertheless, we recognize the importance of creating and maintaining a diverse, mixed-delivery early education system that puts parental choice at the core, and we want to ensure that ample investments are allotted to our youngest 0-3 population, as this is when the foundation for future success is started. Additionally, investing in the infrastructure of our early education workforce is essential to creating and maintaining a system that not only serves the needs of families, but builds and strengthens our economy as well, and we hope to see investments in updating California's child care reimbursement rate system, modernizing facilities, and increased opportunities for workforce development.

*To build safer communities, thriving children, and a more productive economy, all children and youth should have the opportunity to be healthy, educated, and cared for. In a year where revenues are strong, there has never been a more important time to make the significant investments that our children and families in California deserve. **We call on and encourage California's leadership to be bold and use this unexpected surplus to make a positive and lasting impact on the wellbeing of our children and youth starting with the state's youngest residents.***

Shelly Masur, MPH
Council for a Strong America - California State Director

[READ OUR FULL RESPONSE HERE](#)

CSA California Updates

New Video: Child Care in Rural California



Early Childhood Programs are Critical for California's Rural Communities

Why ECE in Rural California Matters: In California, 60% of the population live in child care deserts (where there are more than three children for every child care slot), though rural communities are most severely impacted by unmet childcare needs. [Fight Crime: Invest in Kids](#) and [ReadyNation](#) released a new video featuring leaders in law enforcement, business, and childcare describing the importance of affordable, accessible, and high quality early childhood programs for California's rural communities in bolstering public safety and revitalizing the economy. Share our video via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)!



New Afterschool Factsheet from ReadyNation



Afterschool Programs Support Working Families and Help Prepare Our Youth for the Workforce

Why Afterschool Programs Matter: Afterschool and summer programs offer students a safe place to learn, build social and emotional skills, and develop into successful adults. But access to these crucial programs remains inadequate, due in part to how California funds them. [ReadyNation](#) business leaders know that to support working families and help to prepare our youth for the 21st Century workforce, [it is critical we invest in these high-quality programs](#). Share our Afterschool Factsheet via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)!

Legislative Updates

Here are a few of Council for a Strong America's priority bills currently moving through the process:

- **Expanded Learning Programs: AB 1112 (Carillo)**, which would improve funding allocations for expanded learning options, has passed the Assembly and is waiting to be heard in the Senate! Expanded learning programs are critical resources for school-aged youth that create safe spaces, foster connections, prevent juvenile crime, and improve academic performance. We thank Assemblymember Carillo for her leadership on this issue.
- **Early Childhood Education & Care: AB 92 (Reyes)**, which would increase child care affordability for families by creating a sliding scale for family fees, and **SB 246 (Leyva)** which would provide much needed reform to California's bifurcated child care reimbursement rate system are both on the suspense file in Appropriations Committee, yet we're optimistic to see their continued movement through the process. Both pieces of legislation are essential to creating a child care system that better reflects the needs of California's families and workforce.

For more information on other bills that Council for a Strong America and our member organizations are supporting this year, [click here](#).

Our Members in the News

READYNATION MAY 3, 2021 (Sacramento Business Journal) - *Mark Herbert - VP of Strategic Initiatives & Managing Director, California for the Small Business Majority*

[Investing in broadband means investing in small businesses](#)

READYNATION MAY 3, 2021 (Fresno Bee) - *Tracy Hernandez, CEO of Biz Fed*

[More broadband access, and quickly](#)

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS APRIL 29, 2021 (Mercury News) - *San Mateo County Sheriff Carlos Bolanos* [Regular well-child visits critical for whole family](#)

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS APRIL 26, 2021 (Lake County Record Bee) - *Chief Brad Rasmussen of the Lakeport Police Department*

[Preschool programs an investment in community crime prevention](#)

Join the Conversation on Social Media!

Follow and interact with us on social media! CSA California ([@Strongnation_CA](#)), ReadyNation CA ([@ReadyNationCA](#)), and Fight Crime: Invest in Kids ([@FightCrimeCA](#)).

ABOUT COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Council for a Strong America unites organizations of powerful community leaders from business, law enforcement and retired military who advocate for cradle to career policies and investments to foster the next generation's growth and success in school, work, and life. In California, Council for a Strong America represents three member organizations: [ReadyNation](#), [Fight Crime: Invest in Kids](#), and [Mission: Readiness](#).