



March 2021 Legislative Newsletter

Welcome to Council for a Strong America's March 2021 legislative newsletter! As a reminder, this newsletter provides monthly updates on our work, including opportunities to engage on policy and legislation, as well to connect your legislative office with our diverse membership. This month, we are hosting an exciting opportunity for legislative staff to learn more about the science behind early childhood investments as part of our **Brain Science Lunch and Learn event**. We're also spotlighting a **Fight Crime: Invest in Kids** member, and presenting our 2021 Policy and Legislative agenda. We hope you find our monthly updates helpful and welcome opportunities for collaboration with our unique membership base.

CSA California Updates



ReadyNation California and **First 5 LA** invite you to our virtual Lunch & Learn event: **"The Science Behind Early Childhood Investments"** at 12:30pm on March 30th. This free and time sensitive event will engage your legislative office with the science behind why investments in early childhood programs (including high-quality child care and development programs) play such an essential role in strengthening California's future societal and economic prosperity.

[RSVP HERE](#) to join us on March 30th!

Member Spotlight



Fight Crime: Invest in Kids member **Bisa French** is **Chief of the Richmond Police Department**. As a mother of three and Richmond Police Department's first African American and Latina woman to lead the department, Chief French is deeply committed to making a positive impact in the community, including supporting our younger learners and advocating for afterschool programs to keep youth engaged in positive activities. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids members are police chiefs, sheriffs, and district attorneys who advocate for investments in children and youth to promote public safety, improve graduation rates, and keep children safe. The organization was integral in drafting the language and advocating for the passage of Proposition 49, which created over 2,000 new state-funded after school programs in California.

Legislative Update



We are pleased to share our **CSA CA 2021 Policy and Legislative Agenda**, and look forward to working with your office on policies that impact the wellbeing of California's children and youth. Please find the full version of our policy agenda, including budgetary requests and additional information here.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

Our members are committed to strengthening California's early childhood education system, and know the impact that ECE programs have on strengthening California's workforce, increasing productivity, morale and earnings. Our 2021 ECE priorities include:

- **Accessibility:** Increase funding to child care and ECE programs, particularly impacting 0-3 year olds who face the highest need for care.
- **Affordability:** Increase stagnant provider reimbursement rates and stabilize the bifurcated reimbursement system to provide families with more options while paying providers for the true costs of care.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE - ACTION:

- **SUPPORT AB 92 (Reyes) - Preschool & Development Services: Family Fees**
- **SUPPORT SB 246 (Leyva) - Early Childhood Education: Reimbursement Rates**

CHILDREN'S HEALTH & NUTRITION

Our **Mission:Readiness** members are committed to bolstering child health and nutrition through expansion of food assistance programs and increased allocations meant to strengthen school-lunch programs, ensuring that our future generation has the tools and resources they need to lead healthy and productive lives, including:

- Increased investments in and access to school meal programs
- Increased access to food assistance programs.
- Increased access to healthy and nutritious food

CHILDREN'S HEALTH & NUTRITION - ACTION:

- **SUPPORT SB 20 (Dodd) - CalFresh Nutrition Access**
- **SUPPORT SB 364 (Skinner) - Universal School Meals**
- **SUPPORT SB 107 (Wiener) - SNAP Elderly Access & Telephonic Signature Access**

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our **Fight Crime: Invest in Kids** law enforcement members know that California's afterschool programs serve to positively engage young people with connections to their community and adults, and to keep them safe while building their academic, social, and emotional skills. This year, our members will focus on:

- Increased investments in after-school programs to ensure kids have a safe place to go, ensuring the continuity of care from birth-12.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS - ACTION:

- **SUPPORT AB 1112 (Carrillo) to align and improve the daily rate-setting processes for ASES and 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) by giving the California Department of Education (CDE) the authority and stipulated process to set daily rates**

K-12 AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Our members recognize that equipping students with the skills, resources, and credentials of value they need to succeed in our workforce is imperative to our state's future success, specifically:

- Addressing the Digital Divide
- Supporting post-secondary education access, including dual-enrollment programs
- Supporting funding for full-service community schools, mental health services and other integrated services

K-12 AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION - ACTION:

- **SUPPORT SB 4 (Gonzalez): Broadband for All Act**
- **SUPPORT AB 102 (Holden): College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships**
- **SUPPORT AB 103 (Holden): Pupil instruction: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships: county offices of education.**

We look forward to connecting with you to discuss potential bills that reflect our policy agenda. Our membership is eager to bring their voices to the table, and we welcome the opportunity to partner with your office this legislative session. If you have a piece of legislation you would like to bring to our attention, please email our **Deputy Director, Donna Cullinan**, at dcullinan@councilforstrongamerica.org.

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](#)).