



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Board of Supervisors

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Amber Manfree
Chair

Hon. Asm. Issac G. Bryan
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, Calif. 95814

February 10, 2026

Dear Assemblymember Bryan,

On behalf of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, I write in strong support of the passage of Senate Bill 299, authored by Senator Cabaldon and coauthored by Senator Pérez, through the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources. The bill fills in a missing piece of the CEQA child care exemption puzzle and will give families and childcare providers flexibility and access to meaningful choice.

Last year's CEQA reforms (P.C. 24, § 15) granted important exemptions for all day care centers in areas where people work and on parcels with multi-use zoning designations. This is a useful and innovative approach to building day care facilities: it incentivizes construction in commercial areas, allowing parents and caregivers to drop children off close to work and be nearby in case of illness or other need, and incentivizes new day care centers as a draw in multi-family, multi-use urban infill developments.

The reforms did not, however, make provision for exemption from CEQA in residential areas, putting at relative disadvantage a category of day care facilities favored by a range of parents and caregivers. Families who want to walk their children to daycare before work, families with a strong connection to their neighborhoods build tight-knit communities, and families who want their children to grow up with other children in the neighborhood might all prefer to send their children to a day care close to home.

Last year's bill puts residential day care center business proposals at a comparative economic disadvantage relative to proposals for day care centers in urban and commercial areas, requiring that proposals for day care centers in residential areas undergo CEQA review. The reforms create an incentive for lenders and prospective day care owners and operators to favor opening centers on CEQA-exempt parcels, resulting in fewer new day care centers in residential areas.

SB 299 puts the prospects of small, in-home family day care centers on level footing with centers in other areas. The bill strikes the right balance in creating a narrowly tailored exemption that will not unduly burden neighborhood traffic in residential neighborhoods.

Joelle Gallagher
District 1

Liz Alessio
District 2

Anne Cottrell
District 3

Amber Manfree
District 4

Belia Ramos
District 5

We respectfully request that the committee recognize this careful balance and vote to pass SB 299 to the Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

Amber Manfree
Chair
District 4 Supervisor

Liz Alessio
Vice Chair
District 2 Supervisor

Joelle Gallagher
District 1 Supervisor

Anne Cottrell
District 3 Supervisor

Belia Ramos
District 5 Supervisor

cc:

Members and Staff of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Sen. Chris Cabaldon
Sen. Sasha Renee Pérez
Asm. Cecilia Aguiar-Curry