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PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

By Jeannie Nutter

The California Teachers Association and Rob Reiner announced early in April that they discontinuing the Improving Classroom Education Act Ballot Initiative. The main objective of this ballot issue was to raise millions of dollars to improve education in California. Family Child Care associations and providers were watching this initiative closely because it would have also included money to be used for Universal Preschool or Preschool for All. Referred to as UPK this movement would eventually offer free preschool for all three and four year old on a voluntary basis. Reiner has promised to return this movement to the ballot in 2006.

The UPK movement continues to move forward and Los Angeles County will be offering the first of its UPK in September 2004. Organizers are striving to get the details in place before then and we will be closely watching to see how they implement the program in that area.

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The Packard Foundation has awarded a grant to San Diego County to work on a system that would meet the needs of our area. This program is referred to as Preschool California. You can find out more about this movement at www.preschoolcalifornia.org

The Preschool California Community Leader Forum will meet for the first time in early May and we will report to you updates as they become available.

In a White Paper prepared by the San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council, April 2004, the following statement was made,

“All of California’s licensed family child care providers will be expected to adhere to the guidelines described in “Supporting Early Learning Guidelines for Home Care Settings (working title). Designed to help child care provides prepare children for school, these guidelines are tailored to build on the special capacity of the home care setting as a natural learning environment.”

We are attempting to get a copy of the final draft of this paper so we may inform our members of what they may need to do to be included in the Preschool for All Program. With the help of the San Diego CARES program is would be in the best interest of all providers to continue their education in early childhood development. If you have questions about the CARES Program please call 866.277.3113

Below is the schedule for license fees for the coming years. These increase were made to help the licensing department to become self-funding. Be sure to include these new rates in your budget.

Family Child Care Capacity, Current,				
Year 1, Year 2, Year 3				
Small License 1-8	\$50	\$67	\$83	\$100
Large License 9-14	\$100	\$122	\$167	\$200

