

AB 2324 (Gonzalez, Jeff)

Youth Caregiver Support and Career Pathway

Author: Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez

Subject: Talking Points Youth Caregiver Support and Career Pathway

Background:

California has experienced a workforce shortage in direct support for decades with one of the key factors being unfamiliarity with the profession of direct support.

As the need for direct support continues to grow in developmental services and throughout health and human services programs, the shortage is getting larger and the impact on the state's ability to ensure integration of all people with disabilities and seniors.

Family caregiving is essential to the care and support of people with disabilities and seniors, and of the 4.4 million family members (providing \$81 billion of uncompensated care), an estimated 200 to 600 thousand children providing care in California.

Much of the work youth caregivers provide are actually skills provided in the direct support profession and the effort associated with the goals of the Master Plan for Career Education should recognize this by creating a career pathway for the Direct Support Profession.

What The Bill Does:

1. Requires the Governor's Council for Career Education (GCCE) to recommend workplace learning strategies to the California Workforce Pathway Joint Advisory Committee (CWPJAC) for developing a Youth Caregivers Career Pathway program for the direct support profession.
2. Requires the GCCE to assess the challenges and needs of the state's youth caregivers to the CWPJAC.
3. The bill would require the CWPJAC to appoint, on or before July 1, 2028, an advisory group of subject matter experts to create and establish the Youth Caregivers Career Pathway program.
4. The bill would require the career pathway program to include:
5. curriculum to include a focus on in-home caregiving for youth caregivers for school credits
6. a career pathway program that prepares students for direct support professional careers for youth enrolled in grades 9 to 12.

Fiscal Impact: None, the Governor's Council for Career Education (GCCE) and the California Workforce Pathway Joint Advisory Committee (CWPJAC) are charged with analyzing and recommending career pathway programs. The implementation phase may have a fiscal impact.