

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, 2002 Session

by Heidi Inouye Steiner, Legislative Chair

- **Unsupervised children** (SB 255, Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough)

It is now an infraction punishable by a \$100 fine to leave a child under six unsupervised in a vehicle if the engine is on, keys are in the ignition, or if there is significant risk to a child's safety.

- **Charter Schools** (SB 740, Jack O'Connell D-San Luis Obispo)

Charter schools must obtain waivers from the state board of Education for non-classroom based instruction programs or have their funding cut 10% a year over the next three years.

- **Sun Hats** (SB, Don Perata, D-Alameda)

Every school must permit the use of sun protection clothing such as hats, but can ban clothing deemed gang-related.

- **Smoking Ban on Playgrounds** (AB 188, Juan Vargas, D-San Diego)

It is illegal to smoke or dispose of cigarettes on public playground or Tot-lot areas.

- **AB 2811 Child Development Grant Program** -Migden

The bill extends the Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant Program, indefinitely. (It is scheduled to end 6/30/02) Under the program, students who intend to teach or supervise in a licensed child care center may qualify for a grant. Consultant- Alan LoFaso (916) 319-2013

- **Prop 10 School Readiness-** (AB 2800 Chan)

This bill authorized the California Children and Families Commission to fund programs to ensure children are ready to enter school and explicitly allows the commission to grant state commission funds to county commissions.

Signed: Chapter 245

- **Children Restraint System Signs-** (AB 3047)

This bill requires a sign regarding child passenger restraints to match the requirements of law to be posted at child care centers. Signed: Chapter 350

- **Child Abuse Reporting-** (AB 2672)

This bill will makes it an infraction for a supervisor or administrator to knowingly impede a person mandated to report child abuse or neglect from making their report, punishable by a fine of up to \$5000. Signed Chapter 858  
Consultant- Monica Avriola (916) 319-2063

- **Skateboards, Skates, Scooters-** (SB 1924 O'Connell)

Minors are required to wear helmets when riding a skateboard, scooter, or inline or roller skates on a street or public bicycle path. Violators will be fined up to \$25. The proceeds will be used for safety education and assistance for lower income families to obtain safety helmets.

Signed: Chapter 475

- **Sun Screen-** (SB 632 Perata)

This bill will requires schools to allow pupils to use sunscreen without permission or a doctor's note.

Sponsor- William S. Graham Foundation for Melanoma Research (888) 882-4559 . Signed: Chapter 266

- **Smoking Near Tot Lots-** (AB 1867 Vargas)

This bill prohibits smoking or disposing of tobacco related waste within 25 feet of a playground or tot lot sandbox area. It will increase the fine from \$100 to \$250.

Consultant- Ermelinda Ruiz (916) 319- 2079

Signed: Chapter 527

- **Paid Family Leave-** (SB1661 Keuhl)

The bill establishes a family disability insurance on January 1, 2004, with benefits beginning July 1, 2004 or after to be funded by employee contributions. It will provide up to six weeks of family disability compensation after the first seven days of lost work to individuals unable to work because of illness or injury of a family member or domestic partner, or the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a new child. The bill will allow an employer to require an employee to take up to 2 weeks of earned vacation time before receiving the additional benefits. The employee is not eligible if another family member is able and available to provide care; this bill makes it a crime to falsely certify a medical condition for the family disability insurance.

Signed: Chapter 901