

JAY INSLEE
Governor



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April 3, 2020

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 4, House Bill No. 2619 entitled:

“AN ACT Relating to increasing early learning access through licensing, eligibility, and rate improvements.”

Section 4 allows the department to pay a subsidy rate equal to or higher than what providers bill for private pay. Although I believe that quality child care comes at a cost, I have concerns with utilizing tax-payer dollars to pay child care providers more than the market rate. I also believe subsidy payments over the market rate could have the unintended consequence of driving up private pay standards.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 4 of House Bill No. 2619.

With the exception of Section 4, House Bill No. 2619 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jay Inslee', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jay Inslee
Governor