



October 9, 2025

California Building Standards Commission
Kevin Day, Deputy Executive Director
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833
Via email: cbsc@dgs.ca.gov

Re: Public Comment on Proposed Changes to California Building Code, Title 24

Honored Commissioners:

Head Start California is a nonprofit association representing providers of Head Start services throughout the state. We represent 140 member programs serving 90,000 Head Start children, plus hundreds of thousands of children through additional state and federal programs. The Head Start programs we represent serve California's most vulnerable families, who often have no other options for childcare.

We offer the following commentary regarding the State Fire Marshal's proposed updates to Title 24, Part 2, Chapter 3, Sections 305.2, 308.5.1, and 308.5.4.

In the initial statement of reasons, SFM indicates that these proposals are made "in response to recent legislative proposals." The referenced legislative proposal was [Assembly Bill 176](#), signed by Governor Newsom on September 27, 2024. The bill amended Health and Safety Code sections 1596.809 and 13235. In part, AB 176 requires:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall promulgate updated regulations pertaining to occupancy standards for the facility types in subdivision (b) of Section 1596.809 to the California Building Standards Commission during the next code cycle, but not later than January 1, 2027. The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall consult with the State Department of Social Services on the development of these regulations.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall work with the State Department of Social Services to provide information to the local fire enforcing agency to ensure consistent application of applicable regulations between the State Department of Social Services and the Office of the State Fire Marshal and local fire enforcing agencies.

In light of the requirements to consult with the Department of Social Services and ensure consistent regulations, we believe this proposed regulation change is premature and does not comply with the intention of AB 176. For example, the proposals is inconsistent with other regulations as the typical child care group size of 8 children is not congruent with a limit of 100 children per facility.

We respectfully oppose these proposals and request that, pursuant to AB 176, SFM continue to enforce the code as it existed on December 31, 2022, until such time as new

regulations can be adopted “through the consensus workgroup process” as indicated in the statement of reasons. We appreciate SFM’s intent to form a consensus workgroup. Consistent with the practices of other state agencies, we expect that representatives of the field will be included in said workgroup. We look forward to working together with SFM to craft standards that ensure safety in a manner consistent with existing practices and regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 926-8165 or melanee@headstartca.org if you have any questions.

Regards,



Melanee Cottrill
Executive Director