



California State Association
of Counties



County Welfare Directors
Association of California

May 20, 2015

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, Chair
California Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
State Capitol Building, Room 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Diversion of Local Child Sex Trafficking Funding – OPPOSED

Dear Assembly Member Thurmond:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) **OPPOSE** the Administration's May Revision proposal to divert \$3.25 million in Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) funding intended for local services to victims of child sex trafficking to instead meet new federal mandates.

Counties strongly supported SB 855, last year's measure to direct \$14 million (GF) in funding in 2015-16 to local county child welfare services agencies to help serve the especially vulnerable CSEC population.

Both CSAC and CWDA have closely monitored the CSEC issue as many of our county supervisors and child welfare directors wrestle with how to best serve CSEC victims at the local level. The CSAC Board of Directors is expected to take action next week on a resolution outlining our members' commitment to eliminating child sex trafficking and comprehensively treating CSEC victims. CWDA has prioritized seeking CSEC funding and services for several years now. The Governor's proposal to divert \$3.25 million of the expected \$14 million in funding for counties in 2015-16 runs contrary to our efforts and the ability to address this serious issue.

CSAC and CWDA supported P.L. 113-183, the federal Strengthening Families Act that was passed in Congress earlier this year. It contains several new mandates for states – and in California, the county child welfare services agencies – that we agree have merit in our collective efforts to serve CSEC victims. However, we believe that the new mandates of the federal law go beyond the activities contemplated by SB 855 and that any funding needed for these activities should be appropriated separately from and in addition to the already-enacted state CSEC funding program – a mere \$14 million. Counties also want to ensure the proposed \$3.25 million in funds – regardless of where the funding comes from – is sufficient to meet the new federal mandates in 2015-16. We also acknowledge that counties will have to share in the costs resulting from this new federal mandate under Proposition 30.

Page Two

CSAC/CWDA Letter: Oppose Diversion of CSEC Funding

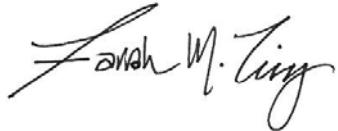
May 20, 2015

In light of the May Revise proposal, we respectfully request that the funds, separate from and in addition to the existing \$14 million SGF, for the new federally required CSEC activities be moved back in the Strengthening Families budget items (\$3.25 million GF) or that new funding be added to the CSEC premise on top of the \$14 million.

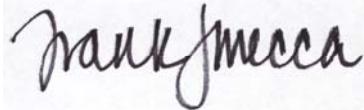
We also respectfully request budget bill language directing CDSS to work with CWDA to develop a funding estimate for the 2016-17 fiscal year to meet these new federal mandates. Proposed budget bill language to this end has been shared with your committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our opposition to the Governor's proposal to sweep \$3.25 million in critical local CSEC funding in 2015-16 for new federal mandates. If you have additional questions about our concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our associations. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Farrah McDaid Ting
Legislative Representative
CSAC
(916) 650-8110



Frank Mecca
Executive Director
CWDA
(916) 443-1749

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Julie Souliere, Republican Assembly Fiscal Office
Gail Gonert, Office of Assembly Speaker Atkins
Will Lightbourne, Director, Department of Social Services
Matt Paulin, Program Budget Manager for HHS, Department of Finance
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Patricia Houston, Legislative Affairs, Department of Social Services