



March 22, 2018

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The Honorable Richard Pan, M.D.  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Funding for County Child Support Programs – Support**

Dear Senator Pan:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I write to express our SUPPORT for the budget request for additional funding for county child support programs. Specifically, CSAC supports the proposal from a number of counties to provide \$42.8 million State General Fund to those counties with historically underfunded child support programs.

The child support program allocation formula was established in 2002 and is based on the amount the county District Attorney's office had previously funded, as opposed to caseload, performance, or other considerations. This has led to significant variations in the amount of funding between counties. In addition, county child support programs are managing with flat funding, rising costs, and declining staffing levels. While there remains a critical need to address the overall distribution among counties and statewide funding levels, providing this additional funding in 2018-19 can bring the 14 historically underfunded counties up to minimum levels. This funding would generate a federal match, meaning that the \$42.8 million state investment will result in \$83.2 million in federal funding.

The child support program provides essential services to families by helping them obtain child support payments, which can often lead to individuals becoming self-sufficient and help to address the significant poverty issues in these counties. In addition to providing a key service to low income families, child support programs provide the State with a return on investment for every dollar spent funding child support staff and operations. This requested budget investment has the potential to bring in nearly \$500 million in additional collections.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports the proposal to provide \$42.8 million State General Fund to provide additional support for county child support programs. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 650-8117 or [jgarrett@counties.org](mailto:jgarrett@counties.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Justin Garrett'.

Justin Garrett  
Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3  
The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Theresa Pena, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Rebecca Hamilton, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
Michael Wilkening, Acting Director, California Department of Child Support Services