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February 10, 2021

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3  
State Capitol, Room 4052  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Child Welfare Investments**

Dear Senator Talamantes Eggman:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties, I am writing to share our support for two stakeholder proposals related to child welfare services and foster care. These two investments can help further support implementation of important state and federal child welfare reforms and improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

**Continuum of Care Reform True-Up**

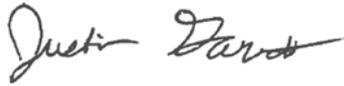
CSAC supports the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) stakeholder proposal for \$80 million for county workload for the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process as part of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). Proposition 30 requires the state to fund the net costs to each county of any new state child welfare requirements enacted after 2011. Counties disagree with the state's interpretation that the RFA process was a requirement prior to 2011. There was no statewide mandate at the time and there have been additional requirements added since that time that further increased workload and costs associated with RFA. There is an agreed upon methodology to determine the CCR true-up that operationalizes the Proposition 30 requirement. Counties have been fronting these costs and this state funding is needed to ensure that counties can continue this vital CCR work and meet other child welfare mandates.

**Family First Prevention Services**

CSAC supports the CWDA and Children Now stakeholder proposal for \$50 million in 2021-22 and \$100 million ongoing to establish local services and supports to prevent children and youth from entering foster care. The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) enacted in 2018 created an opportunity for a federal match for investments in evidence-based prevention services. These services to families, children, and youth can include behavioral health services, substance abuse, parenting skills, and tangible supports. By leveraging federal funding for prevention services, the state, counties, and local communities can work together to keep families together, reduce the risk of maltreatment, and support the safety and well-being of children in their home. Further, these services can help reduce disparities and be focused on communities overrepresented in the system.

Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 698-5751 or [jgarrett@counties.org](mailto:jgarrett@counties.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Garrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin Garrett  
Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3  
The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Renita Polk, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Rebecca Hamilton, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President pro Tempore  
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Kim Johnson, Director, Department of Social Services  
Adam Dorsey, Department of Finance  
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom