



**COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO**

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS**

385 North Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110  
(909) 387-4821  
FAX: (909) 387-9090

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Brad Mitzelfelt ..... *First District*  
Paul Biane ..... *Second District*  
Neil Derry..... *Third District*  
Gary C. Ovitt, Chair ..... *Fourth District*  
Josie Gonzales, Vice-Chair ..... *Fifth District*

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
County Administrative Officer

LANCE M. LARSON  
Director of Legislative Affairs

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Paul Cook  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 1905 (Cook)** – As introduced 2/16/2010 – **SPONSOR**

Dear Assemblyman Cook:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is pleased to sponsor AB 1905. As you are aware, Federal law under the Adoptions and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requires foster families and relatives to follow “same-same” standards for licensure and approval in order to draw down federal Title IV-E funding. California is currently in compliance with the federal IV-E requirements. In fact, with regard to the annual reassessments of relative caregivers, California currently exceeds federal requirement. Unlike county/state licensed foster family homes, state regulations require terminating the AFDC-FC payment if the annual reassessment is not completed in a timely manner for approved relative caregiver homes.

Due to high workloads at the local level and the fact that the state underfunds the county workload for annual reassessments, counties struggle to complete these reviews on time. We currently have approximately 1500 children placed with relatives. Due to the reduction in our Child Welfare Service allocation, processing the annual reassessment in a timely fashion has become an extremely daunting task. Additionally, there are circumstances that can delay the reassessment outside of the caregiver or of county’s control. As a result of a late reassessment ,under state regulations, the federal funding for these placements stop, resulting often in an “overpayment” to that home for the month the home was not deemed in compliance. For any overpayment to a relative caregiver, the state must re-pay the federal government its share and cannot recoup these costs from either foster parents or counties based on current law. This policy is causing California to unnecessarily lose federal funds.

AB 1905 would provide that relative caregivers approved by the county continue to remain eligible for federal funding while the county is processing their annual reassessments. This bill would ensure the state does not expend vital resources to comply with a policy that exceeds federal requirements. For these reasons, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is pleased to sponsor AB 1905. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, County Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**GARY C. OVITT**  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors