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**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110  
(909) 387-4821

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
Chief Executive Officer

August 24, 2011

The Honorable Jim Beall  
California State Assembly  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 212** (Beall) - As amended on 08/15/11 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Beall:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 212 which would provide technical clean-up to AB 12, chaptered in 2010. AB 212 would ensure that the terms related to the extension of foster care are used consistently throughout the Welfare and Institutions Code. The bill would also restore the high school completion rule for certain Kin-GAP recipients that was inadvertently deleted in AB 12.

The majority of the recent amendments were taken at the request of Federal Region IX in order to ensure the approval of the State IV-E and IV- B Plans. Failure to pass AB 212 with these federal amendments could result in the state's risk of losing federal Title IV-E funding. Forthcoming amendments will eliminate the first year of the phased implementation established under last year's AB 12 for a small group of youth, allowing counties to avoid bearing the entire cost of keeping these youth in care, and would allow the state and counties to bring in the 50% federal foster care match for these youth. Additionally, the forthcoming amendments will allow for federally mandated criminal background checks for staff and volunteers in the new foster care placement created under last year's AB 12, THP-Plus Foster Care.

The county continues to strongly support all efforts to obtain additional funding and flexibility at both the state and federal levels to provide robust transitional services for foster youth such as housing, employment services, and increased access to aid. The county also supports ongoing services for former and emancipated foster youth to help ensure the future success of this vulnerable population.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino joins with the California State Association of Counties in supporting AB 212. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*