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County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 22, 2019

The Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Additional Resources for Child Welfare Services Training System - **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Reyes:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully requests your support for a $10 million State General Fund (SGF) increase in the statewide Child Welfare Services Training System. This investment is needed to ensure that social workers, supervisors, and other staff are up to date on the latest policy and practice requirements, in order to provide the highest quality services and supports needed by youth and their families and to meet desired state and federal outcomes.

Over the years, the child welfare system has undergone numerous changes in policy and practice, including implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) that ushered in new requirements for Child and Family Teaming, Child Strengths and Needs Assessments (CANS), Resource Family Approval (RFA), and a Core Practice Model of service delivery in collaboration with County Behavioral Health and other local partners. Unfortunately, statewide resources directed toward implementing and supporting these efforts has been limited to small investments in classroom-based or web-based training. Furthermore, little practical support has been provided to social work staff to reinforce the expected best practices and new mandates in the child welfare program.

To keep pace with rapidly changing regulations and to continue to provide quality child welfare services, San Bernardino County contracts with the Public Child Welfare Training Academy (PCWTA) for a total of approximately $2.6 million a year for training costs not met by the State. Services provided include social worker CORE courses, advanced simulations, coaching and cultural responsiveness academy. This additional training investment helps better prepare the child welfare workforce to handle the caseload, which in San Bernardino County is approximately 47% higher than the average caseload size in neighboring counties. It also helps mitigate job stress and social worker turnover, issues that currently plague our field.

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The requested $10 million for child welfare workforce training and development is expected to improve child welfare outcomes and support worker retention. This investment will also help our county better meet outcome improvements as required by the federal and state Child Welfare System Outcomes and Accountability System and our local System Improvement Plan.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino requests your support for a $10 million SGF increase in the statewide Child Welfare Services Training System. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation