



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

December 19, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
Chair, Ways & Means Subcommittee on
Worker and Family Support
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member, Ways & Means Subcommittee
on Worker and Family Support
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for Family First Transition Act (S. 2777; H.R. 4980)

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden / Chairman Davis and Ranking Member Walorski:

The County of San Bernardino supports the *Family First Transition Act*. The bill provides critical and flexible funding that will assist California's counties in their efforts to implement the child welfare reforms enacted under the *Family First Prevention Services Act* (FFPSA, PL 115-123).

Counties in California are responsible for protecting children and supporting families, including those involved in the child welfare system. We are working to implement the FFPSA and are modifying our Continuum of Care Reform (CCR; AB 403). Additionally, in California 12 percent of the counties use Title IV-E waivers to support services meant to prevent abuse and neglect, increase family engagement and child safety, and improve permanency outcomes.

Under FFPSA, counties may now use Title IV-E funds for child welfare and foster care prevention services and programs. However, the legislation did not extend Title IV-E waiver authorities, limiting prevention service flexibility for states and counties currently reforming child welfare systems through these waivers. By providing FFPSA transition funding and short-term funding for waiver states and counties, the *Family First Transition Act* will prevent funding losses that would critically disrupt child welfare services in states and counties shifting to the new foster care model.

Once enacted, the *Family First Transition Act* will: 1) provide one-time flexible funding to states to support FFPSA implementation initiatives; 2) offer a two-year transition funding guarantee for waiver states facing cutbacks due to the expiration of Title IV-E waivers; and 3) delay through FY 2021 the "well-supported requirement" in FFPSA, which will offer us important flexibility to proceed with existing, evidence-based foster care prevention programs.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports the *Family First Transition Act*. We appreciate your commitment to children and we urge Congress to swiftly pass the *Family*

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First Transition Act. Should you have any questions regarding the County's request, please feel free to contact Josh Candelaria, Governmental and Legislative Affairs Director, at icandelaria@sbcountry.gov or 909 387-4821.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

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

cc: San Bernardino County Congressional Delegation