



**COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO**

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March 27, 2007

The Honorable Robert Dutton  
31<sup>st</sup> Senate District  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 710 (Dutton)**– As Introduced February 23, 2007 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Dutton:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is proud to Support SB 710, which would require juvenile group home providers to receive a letter of support from the county in which they will operate or from a consortium of counties.

As you know, current law stipulates that group home providers must obtain a letter of support before they can receive the foster care rates that they depend upon to generate revenue. The California Department of Social Services’ Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care (AFDC-FC) funds generally pay the costs for children placed by county social services or probation departments. Current law allows group home providers from another county to obtain letters of support from any county and then open a group home inside our county if they receive the letter of support.

This system has led to an overrepresentation of group homes in San Bernardino County, which impacts local schools and increases calls to police and fire departments. In addition, beds that are available in many group homes are often used exclusively by outside placing counties and are not available to San Bernardino County placing agencies. According to the County’s latest Group Home Needs Assessment, San Bernardino County has more than enough generic group homes available to meet our placement needs. However, San Bernardino County has a shortage of certain types of group homes that address specialized needs. The County needs to have control over the letter of recommendation process to ensure that new or expanded group homes meet the county’s placement needs, as defined by the Group Home Needs Assessment.

By requiring group home providers to obtain a letter of support from the host county or a consortium of counties, SB 710 would not only allow the county more say about the placement of such facilities, but would also help ensure that the home would provide quality care and help to keep foster children in their own community. For these reason, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors supports SB 710.

Sincerely,

**PAUL BIANE**  
Chairman, 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.*