



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians

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March 28, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Umberg:

**RE: SB 1090 (HURTADO) AS AMENDED
MARCH 14, 2022 — CO-SPONSOR**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) is proud to be the CO-SPONSOR of SB 1090 by Senator Hurtado, which would clarify populations of youth eligible for the Family Urgent Response System (FURS). Specifically, SB 1090 clarifies that youth and families supported by FURS includes a child or youth who is the subject of a petition to declare them a dependent child of the juvenile court and a youth, children who are receiving child welfare services through a family maintenance program or voluntary placement agreement, foster children placed in California through the Interstate Compact Placement Agreement by another state, and youth who has exited foster care for any reason, including reunification, guardianship, adoption, or emancipation.

FURS is a coordinated statewide, regional, and county-level system designed to provide collaborative and timely state-level phone-based response and county-level in-home, in-person mobile response during situations of instability, to preserve the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth. FURS was established in 2018 and has since been a critical tool to supporting youth, caregivers, and families, and to stabilizing foster care placements.

FURS Services include a toll-free hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week staffed with caring counselors trained in conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for children and youth impacted by trauma; County Mobile Response and Stabilization Teams also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; in-home de-escalation, stabilization, conflict resolution, and support services and resources' ongoing support services beyond the initial mobile response; and, hotline and mobile response staff trained in working with children and families who have experienced trauma.

The original legislation established that services provided were intended for a child or youth who is served by a county child welfare agency or probation department, a child or youth who has exited foster care to reunification, guardianship, or adoption, and provided that the youth be eligible for services under this chapter until they attain 21 years of age. While it was not intended to exclude youth who are the subject of a petition, voluntary agreement, or who have been emancipated, the lack of clarity in law has resulted in some confusion regarding their eligibility for FURS services.

This clarification will ensure that foster youth will be eligible for the important services provided by FURS. For these reasons, CWDA is proud to be the CO-SPONSOR of SB 1090, along with Children Now, and respectfully urges your “aye” vote on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Senderling McDonald" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cathy Senderling McDonald | Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Judiciary Committee
Tam Ma, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Robert Smith, California Department of Social Services
Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties
County Caucus