



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of *All* Californians



County Welfare Directors Association
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California State Association of Counties *
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Sacramento, CA 95814
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August 24, 2016

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016

Dear Senators:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) thank you for your tireless efforts on our behalf to voice the serious concerns of California's counties and the state over certain provisions in the *Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016* (FFPSA). Your staff, including Megan Thompson, Elisabeth Fox and Julia Sferlazzo, have been consistently available, helpful and very responsive throughout the process.

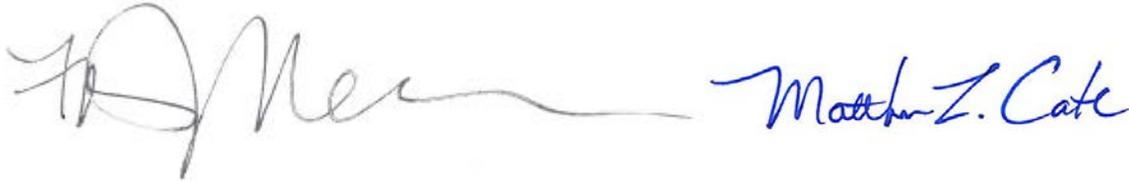
We continue to act in good faith to find ways to strengthen the bill and, with the support of child advocacy organizations within the state, have offered amendments for your consideration to modify it. We want to ensure that the FFPSA does not negatively affect the implementation of our landmark Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which addresses the needs of foster youth who require short-term placement into a congregate care setting for their safety. Our state's efforts were used to help structure the federal bill, but the FFPSA's specific provisions do not work, and in fact may indeed disrupt our reforms which are well underway. The bill also eliminates California's provisions to help foster youth ages 16-18 with transitional housing; and impedes our prevention services work with kin families to help children reunify with their families.

We have identified states with similar concerns and are working closely with the state's Department of Social Services (DSS) and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. We have had numerous discussions with key Senate Finance Committee staff and leaders within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to detail our concerns. Senate Finance Committee staff continue to assert that the bill cannot be amended. Through your staff, we continue to support your efforts to make sure the FFPSA works for all of

California's at-risk children.

Thank you again for your efforts. If you have questions about our positions, please have your staff contact Tom Joseph, Washington Representative for CSAC and CWDA, at 202.898.1446 or tj@wafed.com.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'Frank Mecca' and the signature on the right is 'Matthew Z. Cate'.

Frank Mecca | Executive Director, CWDA
CSAC

Matt Cate | Executive Director,

cc: Will Lightbourne, California Department of Social Services