



May 23, 2011

To: The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

Honorable Members  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

From: *Protect Our Children. Protect Our Future.* Coalition

**RE: Child Welfare Services - Restore \$80 million vetoed funds**

The ***Protect Our Children. Protect our Future. Coalition*** represents a broad group of current and former foster youth, local policy makers, foster care providers, social workers, legal advocates and other child welfare stakeholders in California who are united in an effort to protect abused and neglected children in California. The Coalition urges your subcommittee to restore the \$80 million vetoed by the previous Governor to the child welfare program.

The Administration failed to restore these funds in its January budget proposal. In February, the Administration provided a revised realignment proposal and under the child welfare portion, proposed to restore the funds in three years on a phased-in basis years. The proposal would have provided \$40 million starting in 2012-13 and another \$40 million in 2013-14. However, the Administration's May Revise realignment proposal deleted the \$80 million restoration entirely from the realignment funding tables.

Instead, the Administration proposes to shift mental health services and residential care costs for special education pupils (commonly referred to as AB 3632) from counties to schools beginning in 2011-12. However, the Administration maintains \$100 million in the child welfare base under realignment that could be used towards child welfare and foster care placement costs. While we appreciate leaving this funding in the realignment proposal, those funds will be needed to address underfunded out-of-home care placement costs. The child welfare services program was significantly underfunded prior to the veto, and remains so even with the addition of funds as proposed in realignment.

As we have noted in our prior correspondence, the veto resulted in a loss of another \$53 million in federal matching dollars each of those years. In the last two years, the Legislature showed strong bipartisan support, by fully restoring the \$80 million and approving budgets that included the funding, with clear recognition of the responsibility we have to abused and neglected children, and with great concern that ignoring these children would increase our State's future costs.

**A broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals committed to protecting California's abused and neglected children.**

The Alliance for Children's Rights

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

California Alliance for Child and Family Services

California State Association of Counties

California State PTA

California Youth Connection

Child Abuse Prevention Center

ChildrenNow

Children's Advocacy Institute

Children's Law Center of Los Angeles

County Welfare Directors Association of California

John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes

Laborers' Local 777

Laborers' Local 792

National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter

Regional Council of Rural Counties

Service Employees International Union

Urban Counties Caucus

Youth Law Center

Two consecutive years of cuts have had a direct and negative impact on abused and neglected children. The veto resulted in layoffs of 600 social workers statewide, and dramatically reduced services, leaving abused and neglected children in potentially harmful situations and without adequate support. Child outcomes, previously moving in a positive direction, are now reversing course, as more children are left in harm's way, fewer families are accessing services, and children in foster care are deprived of the permanent families they need and deserve.

We believe that protecting vulnerable children should be our number one priority. However, abused and neglected children can no longer bear the brunt of the State's fiscal problems. **An inadequately-funded child welfare program—whether realigned or not—puts abused and neglected children at great risk of further harm.** Regardless if the Child Welfare Services program is realigned, abused and neglected children will continue to be the *State's* children. The federal government will continue to hold the State accountable to meeting federal outcome standards and could impose millions in fiscal penalties for underperformance.

We deeply appreciate the Legislature's past support in restoring the \$80 million vetoed funding to the child welfare budget, and urge your support to restore the vetoed funds, particularly if the program is realigned to counties.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Frank Mecca, Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association, at [fmecca@cwda.org](mailto:fmecca@cwda.org) or (916) 443-1749. For additional information on Coalition activities, visit [www.protectourchildrenca.org](http://www.protectourchildrenca.org).

cc: Honorable Members, California State Assembly  
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Sharon Bishop, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office  
Gail Gronert, Speakers Office of Policy  
Gareth Elliott, Office of Governor Jerry Brown  
Will Lightbourne, Director, Department of Social Services  
Patricia Huston, Department of Social Services  
Mike Wilkening, Health and Human Services Agency  
Lisa Mangat, Department of Finance  
Christine Frey, Legislative Analyst's Office

Attachment: Coalition Members & Supporters



We, the undersigned **Coalition to Protect Our Children. Protect Our Future.**, represent elected officials, county agencies, legal representatives, current and former foster youth, social workers, service providers and many other organizations, associations, community-based agencies and concerned individuals.

The Coalition urges the Legislature and Governor to restore funding to California's Child Welfare Services program and oppose further cuts in this vital program serving abused and neglected children.

### **Public Agencies & Officials (67)**

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Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
Alameda County Social Services Agency  
Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services  
Calaveras Works and Human Services  
California Latino Legislative Caucus  
California Legislative Black Caucus  
City of Chico, Housing and Neighborhood Services  
Contra Costa County Independent Living Skills Program  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Department  
Del Norte County Department of Health and Human Services  
Fresno County Department of Social Services  
Glenn County Human Resource Agency  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services  
Imperial County Department of Social Services  
Inyo County Health and Human Services  
Kings County Behavioral Health  
Kings County Fire Department  
Kings County Human Services  
Kings County Probation Department  
Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services  
Marin County Health and Human Services  
Mariposa County Human Services Department  
Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency  
Merced County Human Services Agency  
Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
Monterey County Department of Social and Employment Services  
Napa County Child Welfare Services  
Nevada County Health and Human Services Agency  
Placer County Board of Supervisors  
Placer County Health and Human Services  
Plumas County Board of Supervisors  
Plumas County Department of Social Services  
Plumas County Sheriffs Department  
Plumas County Sheriff Greg Hagwood  
Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
Riverside County Department of Public Social Services  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Sacramento County Community Services Agency  
San Benito County Board of Supervisors  
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco Human Services Agency  
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services  
San Mateo County Human Services Agency  
Santa Barbara County Social Services Department  
Santa Clara County Social Services Agency  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
Santa Cruz County Human Services Department  
Siskiyou County Human Services  
Solano County Health and Social Services Department  
Sonoma County Human Services Department  
Stanislaus County Community Services Agency  
Stanislaus County Public Health Services CHDP/Foster Care/Lead Programs  
Tehama County Social Services Department  
Trinity County Behavioral Health  
Trinity County District Attorney's Office  
Trinity County Health and Human Services  
Trinity County Office of Education  
Trinity County Probation Department  
Trinity County Sheriff's Department  
Tulare Health and Human Services Agency  
Tuolumne County Child Welfare Services  
Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
Yolo County Department of Health and Social Services  
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

### **Associations, Coalitions & State/National Organizations (34)**

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The Alliance for Children's Rights  
Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA)  
Butte County Employees Association, Local 1  
Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance  
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO  
California Alliance for Child and Family Services  
California CASA Association  
California Coalition for Parent Advocacy in Child Protective Services  
California Coalition for Youth  
California Public Defenders Association  
California State Association of Counties  
California State Care Providers Association  
California State PTA  
California Youth Connection  
Chief Probation Officers of California  
Child Abuse Prevention Center  
ChildrenNow  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
Children's Defense Fund – California  
Children's Law Center of Los Angeles  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California

Foster Care Alumni of America, California Chapter  
John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes  
Laborers' Local 777  
Laborers' Local 792  
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter  
National Center on Shared Leadership  
National Center for Youth Law  
National Coalition for Parent Advocacy in Child Protective Services  
Regional Council of Rural Counties  
Service Employees International Union  
*Sutter/Yuba County Employees Assoc. Local #1*  
Urban Counties Caucus  
Youth Law Center

### **Community-Based Agencies, Organizations and Commissions (220)**

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**A Home Within**, San Francisco, CA  
**A Safe Place**, Oakland, CA  
**ABC Foster Family Agency, Inc.**, Santa Ana CA  
**Abode Services - Formerly Tri-City Homeless Coalition**, Fremont, CA  
**ACTION Council of Monterey County**, Salinas, CA  
**Adopt A Special Kid (AASK)**, Oakland, CA  
**Advocates for Children (San Mateo CASA)**  
**AJE Partners, Dion Aroner**, Berkeley, CA  
**Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance**, Oakland, CA  
**Alameda Family Services-DreamCatcher Youth Shelter**, Oakland, CA  
**Alfa Homes, Inc.**, San Francisco, CA  
**Alternative Family Services**, Vallejo, CA  
**Amador Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**, Jackson, CA  
**ASPIRAnet**, Bakersfield and Visalia, CA  
**ASPIRAnet**, Merced, CA  
**ASPIRAnet**, South San Francisco, CA  
**ASPIRAnet**, Turlock, CA  
**Avant-Garde Foster and Adoption Agency, Inc.**, San Dimas CA  
**Bay Area Youth Center**, Hayward, CA  
**Beverly Hills Counseling, Dr. Jim Gordon, Ph.D.**, Beverly Hills, CA  
**Beyond Emancipation**, Oakland, CA  
**Bienvenidos Children's Center, Inc.**, Los Angeles, CA  
**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California**, Fresno CA  
**Bill Wilson Center**, San Jose CA  
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Tulare County**, Visalia CA  
**Braswell Rehabilitation Institute for Development of Growth and Educational Services, Inc. (BRIDGES, Inc.)**, Pomona, CA  
**Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council**, Chico CA  
**California Family Life Center - Kin Care, Kinship Support Services Program**, Riverside County  
**California Parenting Institute**, Santa Rosa, CA  
**Caring S.H.O.S., Inc.**, Stanton, CA  
**Career Ladders Project**, Oakland CA  
**CASA, A Voice for Children** (Napa County CASA)  
**Casa de Amparo**, Oceanside, CA  
**Charis Youth Center**, Grass Valley, CA  
**Changing the Health of Adolescents Impacting the Nation Reaction, Inc.**, Los Angeles, CA  
**Charlee Family Care, Inc.**, Yucaipa, CA

**Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County**  
**Child Advocates of Nevada County**, Nevada City CA  
**Child Advocates of Placer County**, Auburn CA  
**Child Advocates of San Bernardino County (CASA)**  
**Child & Family Institute**, Sacramento, CA  
**Children First Foster Family Agency**, Redding, CA  
**Children's Hope FFA/Center for Hope THP-Plus**, Yuba City, CA  
**Children's Services Network of Tulare County**, Visalia, CA  
**Community Access Center**, Riverside CA  
**Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County**, San Luis Obispo, CA  
**Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County**  
**Community Housing Partnership**, San Francisco, CA  
**Community Services Employment Training, Inc.**, Visalia, CA  
**Community Solutions**, Morgan Hill, CA  
**Corporation for Supportive Housing**, Los Angeles, CA  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Butte and Glenn Counties**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Del Norte County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) El Dorado County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Riverside County Inc.**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Contra Costa**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Fresno and Madera Counties**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Humboldt County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Imperial County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Kern County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Mariposa County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Mendocino County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Monterey County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Orange County, Inc.**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Plumas County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of San Benito County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of San Joaquin County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of San Luis Obispo**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Santa Barbara County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Santa Cruz County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Siskiyou County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Solano County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Sonoma County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Stanislaus County**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Tulare County, Visalia, CA**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Ventura County**  
**Covenant Community Services, Inc.**, Bakersfield, CA  
**Covenant House California**, Hollywood, CA  
**David & Margaret Youth and Family Services**, La Verne, CA  
**Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund**, Berkeley, CA  
**Edgewood Center for Children and Families**, San Francisco, CA  
**EMQ FamiliesFirst**, Campbell, CA  
**Enhancing Forward Action, Inc.**, Colton, CA  
**Environmental Alternatives**, Quincy, CA  
**EPA CAN DO**, East Palo Alto, CA  
**Everychild Foundation**, Pacific Palisades, CA  
**Family and Youth Services**, Stockton, CA  
**Family Child Care Network, Inc.**, San Luis Obispo, CA

**Family Service Agency, Santa Rosa, CA**  
**Family Services of Tulare County, Visalia, CA**  
**First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission, Chico, CA**  
**First 5 Fresno County, Fresno CA**  
**First 5 Humboldt, Eureka, CA**  
**First 5 Kings County, Hanford, CA**  
**First 5 Lake Commission, Lakeport CA**  
**First 5 Marin, San Rafael, CA**  
**First 5 Napa County, Napa CA**  
**First 5 Plumas County Children and Families Commission, Quincy CA**  
**First 5 Riverside, Riverside CA**  
**First 5 San Joaquin, Stockton CA**  
**First 5 San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo CA**  
**First 5 Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA**  
**First 5 Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, CA**  
**First 5 Tuolumne County, Sonora CA**  
**First 5 Yolo County, Woodland CA**  
**First Place for Youth, Oakland, CA**  
**Five Acres The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles, Altadena, CA**  
**Folsom Lake College, Sacramento, CA**  
**Foster and Kinship Care Education, South Lake Tahoe, CA**  
**Fred Finch Youth Center, Oakland, CA**  
**Fullerton CSU Guardian Scholars Program, Fullerton CA**  
**Gail Johnson Vaughan, Mission Focused Solutions**  
**Goshen Family Resource Center, Visalia CA**  
**Great Kids, Inc., Altadena, CA**  
**Happy Faces Foster Family Agency, Banning, CA**  
**Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services, Pasadena, CA**  
**Hollister Youth Alliance, Hollister, CA**  
**Home Start, Inc., San Diego, CA**  
**Huckleberry Youth Programs, San Francisco, CA**  
**Human Response Network, Trinity County**  
**iFoster.org, Sacramento, CA**  
**Imperial County Children and Families First Commission, El Centro CA**  
**Indian Valley Collaborative, Plumas County**  
**Inland Temporary Homes, Loma Linda, CA**  
**Japanese Community Youth Council, San Francisco, CA**  
**John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, Palm Desert, CA**  
**Journey House Inc., Pasadena, CA**  
**Juma Ventures, Oakland, CA**  
**Junior Blind of America, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Kern Child Abuse Prevention Council/ KSSP, Bakersfield, CA**  
**Kings Community Action Organization, Hanford, CA**  
**Kings County Child Abuse Prevention Committee, Hanford, CA**  
**Kinship Center, Salinas, CA**  
**Larkin Street Youth Services, San Francisco, CA**  
**Lassen Family Services CASA**  
**Latino Family Institute, Inc., West Covina, CA**  
**Legal Advocates for Children & Youth, San Jose, CA**  
**Lilliput Children's Services, Sacramento CA**  
**Lincoln Child Center, Oakland, CA**  
**Lindsay Healthy Start, Lindsay, CA**  
**Linkage to Education, Sacramento, CA**

**Lutheran Social Services of Northern California**, Concord, CA  
**Lutheran Social Services of Southern California**, Orange, CA  
**Marin Advocates for Children (CASA)**  
**Mariposa Safe Families, Inc.**, Mariposa County, CA  
**Mary Graham Children's Foundation**, French Camp, CA  
**Mendocino County Policy Council on Children and Youth**, Ukiah, CA  
**Mendocino County Child Abuse Prevention Commission**, Ukiah, CA  
**Murrell's Farm and Boys Home**, Lancaster, CA  
**New Alternatives, Inc.**, San Diego, CA  
**New Direction of Humboldt Foster Parent Association**, Humboldt County, CA  
**Northern Valley Catholic Social Service**, Tehema County  
**Nuevo Amanecer Latino Children's Services**, Los Angeles, CA  
**Olive Crest**, Burbank, Bellflower, Torrance, La Quinta, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego and Santa Ana, CA  
**Operation SafeHouse**, Riverside, CA  
**Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services**, Los Angeles, CA  
**Orangewood Children's Foundation**, Santa Ana, CA  
**Parenting Network Visalia Family Resource Center**, Visalia CA  
**Parents Anonymous Inc.**, Claremont, CA  
**Pathways To Your Future, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Peacock Acres Inc.**, Salinas CA  
**Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center**, Quincy CA  
**Plumas Parents Advocating for Children**, Quincy CA  
**Plumas Rural Services**, Serving Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Sierra Counties, Quincy CA  
**Prime Property Investments**, Sacramento, CA  
**Rebekah Children's Services**, Gilroy, CA  
**Redwood Children's Services, Inc.** Ukiah, CA  
**Redwood Community Action Agency**, Eureka, CA  
**Richstone Family Center**, Los Angeles CA  
**River Stones Residential Services Inc.**, Redlands, CA  
**Roots Collective, Inc.**, Visalia, CA  
**Roundhouse Council Indian Education and Resource Center**, Greenville CA  
**Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center**, Sacramento CA  
**Sacramento CASA Program Inc.**  
**Sacramento State University Guardian Scholars Program**, Sacramento, CA  
**San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**, San Francisco, CA  
**San Gabriel Children's Center, Inc.**, Glendora, CA  
**Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center** Santa Cruz, CA  
**Santa Clara County Office of Education Foster Youth Services**, San Jose, CA  
**St. Anne's**, Los Angeles, CA  
**Seneca Center for Children and Families**, located in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Solano and Marin Counties.  
**Shasta County Child Abuse Prevention Council**, Red Bluff CA  
**Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities, Inc**, Quincy CA  
**Sierra Nevada Children's Services**, Nevada City, CA  
**Silicon Valley Children's Fund**, San Jose, CA  
**The Smith Renaissance Society at UC Santa Cruz**, Santa Cruz, CA,  
**Sonoma Kinship Family Center**, Santa Rosa, CA  
**Stanford Home for Children**, Sacramento, CA  
**Stew's Love N Care Inc.**, Oakland, CA  
**Strengthening Families All Around the World, Inc.** Claremont, CA  
**Sun Valley Foster Parent Association**, Fresno, CA  
**Sunny Hills Services**, Santa Rosa, CA

**T&T House of Champion, Inc.**, San Francisco Bay Area, CA  
**Tehama County First Five**, Red Bluff CA  
**The Teen Project**, Rancho Santa Margarita CA  
**Thornhill & Associates, Inc.**, Chatsworth, CA  
**Training With Pay**, Yucca CA  
**Triad Family Services**, Sacramento, CA  
**Trinity Youth Services**, Sacramento CA  
**United Way of Santa Cruz County**  
**Unity Care Group, Inc.**, San Jose, CA  
**Unity Fellowship Social Justice Ministries**, Los Angeles, CA  
**Victor Community Support Services, Inc.**, Stockton, CA  
**Victor Treatment Centers, Inc.** Chico, CA  
**Victor Valley Family Resource Center**, Victorville, CA  
**Village of Childhelp West**, Beaumont, California  
**Visalia Rescue Mission**, Visalia, CA  
**Voices for Children (San Diego CASA)**  
**V.O.I.C.E.S. (Voice Our Independent Choices for Emancipation Support)**, Napa, CA  
**Waking the Village, Sacramento, CA**  
**Walden Family Services**, San Diego CA  
**Weissman & Associates Fostering Dreams**, El Centro, CA  
**West County Community Services**, Guerneville, CA  
**WestCoast Children's Clinic**, Oakland, CA  
**YWCA Santa Monica / Westside**, Santa Monica, CA 90405  
**YMCA Youth & Family Services**, Santa Barbara, CA  
**Yolo County CASA**  
**Youth for Change**, Chico, CA  
**Youth Spirit Artworks**, Berkeley, CA  
**Youth Homes, Inc., Walnut Creek, CA**

#### **Individuals (24)**

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**Amy Freeman**, Alameda County  
**Betty Luna**, Child Advocate/Shelter Supervisor, Central California Family Crisis Center  
**Carol Curry**, Program Manager, Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, Corning Family Resource Center, Red Bluff, CA  
**Claire Davis**, Associate Director for Administrative Services, Student Housing and Conference Services, California State University, Northridge  
**Angela Gibbs**, Los Angeles County  
**Celia Goeckermann**, Santa Cruz County  
**Dale R. Johnson**, Former Board member and Board President of CASA of Santa Cruz County  
**Debbie Jenae**, Santa Barbara, CA  
**Gilda Maldonado**, Financial Aid Officer, San Diego Mesa College  
**Jeanette Garcia**, former foster youth, Merced County  
**June Smith**  
**Kathy Garcia**, Garcia Boxing, Salinas, CA  
**Leanne Wagoner**, South Lake Tahoe, CA  
**Michelle Schmidt, RN**, Public Health, Red Bluff, CA  
**Mila Shank**, Santa Cruz County  
**Nora Krantzler, PhD, MPH**, Senior Human Services Analyst, County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Homeless Persons' Health Project  
**Rocio Angeles**, Social Worker, Los Angeles County  
**Rory Rottschalk**, Butte County  
**Sheila Whipple**, Referral Specialist, CCIP Program Coordinator, Community Child Care

Council (4Cs)

**Silvia Osorio-Reyes**, Senior Social Worker, Orange County Transitional Planning Services

**Solomon Belette**, CEO, Catholic Charities of the East Bay

**Stephanie and William Havers**, Riverside County

**Suzanne Plopper**, Plumas County CASA volunteer

**Tina L. Smith**, Senior Social Worker, Butte County Children's Services

Updated 5/23/11