



May 23, 2011

To: The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

Honorable Members
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

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

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

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

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 but in three years on a phased-in basis. 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.

The Administration also 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.

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 or (916) 443-1749. For additional information on Coalition activities, visit www.protectourchildrenca.org.

cc: Honorable Members, California State Senate
: Jennifer Troia, Consultant, Senate Budget Committee
Myesha Jackson, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Chantele Denny, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
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)

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)

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)

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)

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

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