**Place on Organizational Letterhead**

**[Date]**

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Governor of the State of California

State Capitol, 1st Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

*Attention: Donna Campbell*

**Re: AB 2043 (Arambula) – Request Signature**

Dear Governor Brown,

[Name of Your Organization] is writing to request your signature on AB 2043 by Assembly Member Arambula, which would establish the Family Urgent Response System for foster youth and caregivers.

The goal of this bill is to provide foster youth and their caregivers with the immediate support they need during times of emotional crisis and to link youth and families to needed supports and services to help stabilize the situation and preserve that placement on an ongoing basis. AB 2043 supports the goals of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) to provide timely, in-home supports and services to help families thrive.

Children and youth in foster care have often experienced trauma that manifests in behaviors that can become overwhelming to their caregivers. Caregivers may feel their only options are to contact law enforcement, which can result in the criminalization of foster youth. Caregivers also may feel forced to give up on their foster youth, which in turn leaves the youth feeling even more abandoned and traumatized.

CCR envisioned that all foster youth and caregivers receive immediate and timely supports and services to support long-term permanency and improved outcomes. AB 2043 fulfills this promise by providing foster youth and their caregivers with on-demand support. Specifically, the bill establishes a statewide, toll-free hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for caregivers and youth who are experiencing emotional, behavior or other difficulties and need immediate help. The hotline will be staffed with operators trained in conflict resolution and de-escalation who will provide immediate assistance to help defuse the crisis and determine whether mobile, in-home support is needed. The bill also requires counties to establish cross-disciplinary mobile response teams to provide face-to-face, in-home response on a 24/7 basis to help stabilize the living situation, assess the caregiver’s and child’s needs, and develop a plan of action. Counties will provide the family with ongoing services through their existing local networks of care.

AB 2043’s Family Urgent Response System will help address traumatic experiences for foster youth, reduce law enforcement calls and the needless criminalization of youth, and prevent placement disruption. By stabilizing placements, this will promote healing and bonding for foster youth and their caregivers and support the permanency goals envisioned by CCR.

For these reasons, [Name of Your Organization] supports AB 2043. We respectfully request your signature on this measure.

Sincerely,

Your Name and Title

cc: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula

County Welfare Directors Association of California