**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 2083 (Cooley) – Request Signature**

Dear Governor Brown,

[Name of Your Organization] is writing to request your signature on AB 2083 by Assembly Member Cooley. This bill would ensure more coordinated, timely services to youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma and are served by multiple agencies.

The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) enacted via AB 403 (Stone, 2015) and amended through subsequent clean-up legislation, requires counties to reduce congregate care placements and increase family-based placements for children in foster care. For this shift in placements to work, however, a shift in services also must occur. In order for children and youth to successfully move out of group homes and into community-based placements, county child welfare agencies must be able to connect youth who have suffered the most severe trauma with services and supports that often cross multiple systems.

Untreated and unresolved trauma can present itself in the form of behavioral issues, which can lead to placement disruptions, refusals from caregivers and group homes to accept these youth for placement, placement out of state rather than in their communities, and law enforcement/juvenile justice involvement. AB 2083 would take steps to head off these issues before they arise.

The bill requires county agencies, as well as county offices of education and regional centers, to enter into Memorandums of Understanding to jointly serve youth with needs that span across the systems. The bill also establishes a state-level joint inter-agency team, which would provide technical assistance to county agencies establishing MOUs, address cross-program policy inconsistencies, and ensure a process is in place to provide cross-departmental assistance when needed in individual cases.

The overarching goal of AB 2083 is to better serve youth who have experienced severe trauma, by ensuring the services available to them are coordinated, trauma-informed and timely. Ensuring both local and state involvement, and working with other stakeholders to address potential gaps in placements and services, should improve services to these youth and help the agencies at all levels who serve these youth realize the goals of CCR.

For these reasons, [Name of Your Organization] supports AB 2083. We respectfully request your signature on this measure.

Sincerely,

Your Name and Title

cc: The Honorable Ken Cooley

County Welfare Directors Association of California