



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

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April 6, 2022

The Honorable Mark Stone  
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 5740  
Sacramento, CA

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

**RE: AB 2306 (COOLEY) AS AMENDED  
MARCH 28, 2022 — SPONSOR**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) is proud to be the SPONSOR of AB 2306 by Assembly Member Cooley, which would support housing options for transition-aged foster youth (TAY) and help stabilize foster care placements. AB 2306 will: (1) establish a new licensing category known as “Specialized Foster Home for Transition Aged Youth,” (2) modernize and expand the Independent Living Program (ILP); and, (3) expand the current Foster Family Home and Small Family Home Insurance Fund.

California’s current supports and services do not sufficiently meet the needs of our resource families and TAY, including young adults in the Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program, and are not aligned with recent legislative changes at the federal and state levels as intended to achieve the best outcomes for youth and non-minor dependents participating in EFC.

AB 2306 establishes a new residential option for transition-aged foster youth that conforms to requirements established by the Federal Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), and leverages federal Title IV-E funding. This would provide county placing agencies and foster youth with an alternative model from the current Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minors (THPP-M) program, which has been an effective program for older foster youth transitioning into adulthood. However, under its currently licensing structure, THPP-M does not meet new requirements under FFPSA as an eligible Title IV-E facility, therefore, losing out on maximizing federal funding and preventing youth from benefiting from this program.

Additionally, AB 2306 modernizes the ILP program. The ILP program provides important services, and benefits to assist current and former foster youth in achieving greater self-sufficiency prior to, and after leaving, the foster care system. However, the state has yet to extend these services beyond age 21 despite recent changes to federal law that allow for ILP services up to 23 years of age. Per a national report, 19 other states have opted to extend Chafee services to age 23. AB 2306 would expand the existing ILP to age 22 and require the department to determine the funding necessary to expand eligibility for ILP to include former foster youth up to 23 years of age. Furthermore, this bill adds new expectations for ILP programs to include support for building and maintaining important family, family-like and adult connections, access to supports for post-secondary education to achieve vocational goals, and other supports intended to improve outcomes for current and former foster youth.

Lastly, as California continues to implement CCR and promote family-based and community-based care, additional supports are needed for resource families and to other foster care providers, to include protections from personal and property liability to those caregivers. This will provide family-based caregivers as well as Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) who care for our most traumatized foster youth, with greater support to meet youth's needs, particularly when foster youth may display trauma-induced behaviors in the home or other settings that result in damage to the home.

For these reasons, CWDA is proud to be the SPONSOR of AB 2306 and respectfully urges your "Aye" vote on this measure.

Sincerely,



Cathy Senderling McDonald | Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Ken Cooley  
Honorable Members and Consultants, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Tam Ma, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
Robert Smith, California Department of Social Services  
Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties  
County Caucus