



ANTHONY RENDON

SPEAKER *of the ASSEMBLY*
Sixty-Third Assembly District

July 7, 2016

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016, S 3065/HR 5456

Dear Senators:

I am writing you to echo the deep concerns of California's state and county agencies regarding the impact of The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016, S 3065/HR 5456 on California. While an impressive proposal intended to bring better services to children and families, the recently-released draft language would have significant and severely depleting consequences for our home state. I join in the request by the state and county agencies and ask that you continue to hold on this pending legislation while potential amendments can be reviewed and considered.

I don't make this request lightly. As you know, California has been on the cutting edge in terms of being one of the first states to opt in to vital and hard-won federal reforms, such as the federal Fostering Connections Act which now supports thousands of our older youth ages 18 to 21 as they work hard to achieve independence and autonomy with the benefit of higher education and better housing.

Unfortunately, the current language in S 3065/HR 5456 would severely undermine another reform effort underway in California, the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort enacted in 2015. The California Department of Social Services believes that the federal legislation would hamper reform efforts that are the culmination of a years-long stakeholder discussion and resulting legislation to diminish the use of group homes and support foster family homes and relative caregivers. I respectfully ask for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,

ANTHONY RENDON
Speaker of the Assembly