



**Children  
Now®**



June 25, 2024

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) and Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HPCFC) – SUPPORT BUDGET ACT AGREEMENT**

Dear Senator Wiener and Assembly Member Gabriel,

The undersigned organizations, representing California's local health departments, social services agencies, their workforce, and impacted children and families, write to express our support for the provisions included in the final budget act agreement related to the creation of the standalone Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HPCFC) upon the sunset of the Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program. We respectfully request your support on the final budget act agreement.

Specifically, language included in the final agreement provides a process for counties to seek flexibility in program staffing and administration to implement and operationalize standalone HPCFC and the new California Children's Services (CCS) Compliance Monitoring and Oversight Initiative. Counties must obtain approval from their local governing boards and Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to deviate from established program methodologies, and counties exercising this flexibility must report to DHCS the utilization of funds in staffing these programs during this time of transition.

Our coalition has appreciated the collaborative engagement with the Senate, Assembly, and Administration throughout the budget process to ensure a smooth transition of these programs serving vulnerable children and youth statewide while preserving local health department staff. We look forward to continuing to engage with the Legislature and Administration on implementation and administration of these important programs.

Our organizations respectfully request your support of the final budget act agreement provisions related to the CHDP sunset and creation of the standalone HPCFC. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director  
County Health Executives Association of California

Eileen Cubanski  
Interim Executive Director  
County Welfare Directors Association of California

Amanda Miller McKinney  
Senior Policy Associate, Child Welfare  
Children Now

Beth Malinowski  
Government Relations Advocate  
SEIU California

Martha Guerrero, LCSW  
Legislative Representative  
County of Los Angeles

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee  
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Marjorie Swartz, Principal Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore  
Rosielyn Pulmano, Health Policy Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker  
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus  
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance  
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency  
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
Michelle Baass, Director, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)  
Sarah Brooks, Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, DHCS  
Susan Philip, Deputy Director, Health Care Delivery Systems, DHCS  
Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health