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June 27, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Room 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP), Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC), California Children’s Services (CCS) Monitoring & Oversight Program Transitions – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE on SB 108

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations, representing California’s local health departments, social services agencies, their workforce, and impacted children and families, write to respectfully request your signature on SB 108 which includes provisions related to the creation of the standalone Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC) upon the sunset of the Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program.

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 HCPCFC 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 your Administration and the Legislature on implementation and administration of these important programs.

Our organizations respectfully request your signature on SB 108, including provisions related to the CHDP sunset and creation of the standalone HCPCFC. 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: 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
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