



## Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
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March 28, 2017

The Honorable Blanca Rubio, Chair  
Assembly Human Services Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1164 (Thurmond): Foster care placement: funding**  
**As introduced February 17, 2017**  
**Set for hearing April 4, 2017: Assembly Human Services Committee**  
**County of Riverside: SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children, contingent upon a \$31 million appropriation, to increase access to early care and education services for abused and neglected children across the State. This program would help to immediately stabilize vulnerable children in the most appropriate placement, and provide them with a bridge to long-term, high quality early education programs.

County child welfare agencies rely on the commitment of countless resource families to provide children, who have been abused and neglected, with safe and loving homes. Unfortunately, many willing resource parents cannot provide homes for foster children because they lack access to child care. Although foster children are eligible for state child care subsidies, one of the main barriers to accessing child care is a "timing gap." When children are removed, they are in crisis and prospective resource parents – often relatives – instantly need to access child care to care for their new family member while further allowing them to keep their jobs. Yet, child care programs typically operate at full capacity, with short enrollment windows that rarely align with a child's placement into foster care. This makes it nearly impossible for caregivers who work to take in young children. This proposal addresses this "timing gap" so that children can be promptly placed and stabilized with loving relatives or with the right resource family.

The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children would provide:

- 1) An emergency child care voucher for resource families who need child care to take in foster children as well as for parenting foster youth;



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- 2) Child Care Navigators to provide the resource family with enhanced support in navigating the state's complex child care system and transitioning into long-term, high quality early education programs; and,
- 3) Training for child care providers caring for our youngest abused and neglected children on trauma-informed care.

The success of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) depends on increased recruitment, retention and support of resource families. Many counties continue to struggle with declines in the available number of caregivers, in part due to positive outcomes such as adoption/guardianship and difficulty in recruiting working families. The child welfare system cannot succeed in its mission to provide loving foster homes for our most vulnerable children unless this barrier to recruiting caregivers is addressed. In addition, we know that, for all the benefits that high quality child care has for young children, the impact can be far more dramatic for children who have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect, and removal from their homes.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 1164. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy County Executive Officer Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110 or [bnestande@rceo.org](mailto:bnestande@rceo.org).

Sincerely,



John F. Tavaglione  
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Tony Thurmond, California State Assembly  
Members and Consultants, Assembly Human Services Committee  
County of Riverside Delegation