[DATE]

***VIA FACSIMILE:*** (916) 327-8817

Senator Kevin de León

Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

State Capitol, Room 5108

Sacramento, CA 95814

***RE: Support for AB 1089***

Dear Senator de León:

The [Name of Organization] is pleased to support AB 1089, a bill that will prevent children in foster care from facing devastating gaps in crucial developmental services when they move from one foster home to another.

[Insert brief paragraph regarding organization]

A number of children in foster care face serious developmental delays and disabilities as a result of abuse, neglect, and prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol. California’s Regional Centers create individualized service plans for infants, children and youth to improve and overcome these conditions. Research indicates that consistent and timely implementation of these services and supports are critical if foster youth are to make progress in overcoming these developmental disabilities.

Unfortunately, these services and supports can be delayed and disrupted when foster children, who are frequently relocated, must change regional centers. Foster youth often move suddenly and lack an advocate or consistent caregiver who can navigate the smooth transfer of supports and services – the very things that increase placement stability for these vulnerable youth. When regional center services stop for extended periods of time, children regress, families struggle and the problems these children face intensify.

Presently, there are no clear legislative timelines or procedures to regulate the transfer of a child’s case between regional centers. AB 1089 will create a uniform procedure regarding the transfer of cases between regional centers for foster youth. By mandating clear timelines for the transfer between regional centers as well as the commencement of services, foster children will be protected from major disruptions in the services that they so desperately need.

AB 1089 has been substantially amended since it was heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Many of the timelines and processes in the original version have been removed, thereby easing cost pressures for regional centers. Additionally, while AB 1089 impacts a very small number of foster youth,[[1]](#footnote-1) its impact on this very vulnerable population is great and will save the state resources in the long-term. Indeed, research has shown that when children receive consistent services and supports early in life, it reduces their future level of need. In one study of the cumulative costs of special education for children birth to age 18, it was shown that costs were up to 30% lower for children who received intervention at birth.[[2]](#footnote-2)

We urge your aye vote on this important legislation. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]

[Organization]

cc: Assemblymember Ian Calderon: (916) 319-2157

1. According to DDS data from 2011, there were 1650 children in foster care who also received regional center services. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. M.E.Wood,“Costs of Intervention Programs.” In Corinne Garland, Nancy W. Stone, Jennie Swanson, and Geneva Woodruff, eds., *Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs and Their Families: Findings and Recommendations.* Westar Series Paper no. 11 (ED 207 208), Seattle: University of Washington, 1981. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)