

# CAI's 2016 Legislative Priorities

## California

- **SB 316 (Mitchell)** -- caseload caps for minors' counsel in dependency court proceedings
  - **Sample Support Letter**
  - **Fact Sheet**
- **SB 1201 (Mitchell)** will reduce unnecessary delays in relative placements for children in foster care and would expand the availability of placements by repealing redundant state criminal history restrictions and streamlining the process by which a prospective caregiver's criminal history is reviewed.
  - **Fact Sheet**
- **SB 1336 (Jackson)** would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to improve the identification and recruitment of relatives for the placement of children in foster care
- **AB 1001 (Maienschein)** -- prohibit a person from impeding or interfering with the making of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect by a mandated reporter
  - **Fact Sheet**
- **AB 1911 (Eggman)** would require the Judicial Council to, on or before January 31, 2017, convene a committee comprised of stakeholders involved in serving the needs of dependents or wards of the juvenile court; require the committee to develop and report to the Legislature its recommendations to facilitate and enhance comprehensive data and outcome tracking for the state's dually involved, crossover, and dual status youth; and require the recommendations to include specified information, including standardized definitions related to the populations of youth involved in both the child welfare system and the probation system. The bill would also require DSS to, on or before January 31, 2017, implement a function within the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) that will enable county child welfare agencies and county probation departments to identify the dually involved youth residing within their counties, and to issue guidance to all counties on the manner in which to track joint assessment hearing information completely and consistently for dually involved youth.
- **AB 2506 (Thurmond)** would specify the standards to be met by postsecondary educational institutions in order to be deemed to be qualifying institutions, to the fullest extent consistent with federal law, in this state with respect to the Chafee Educational and Training Voucher program, and would require the Student Aid Commission to ensure that every current and former foster youth who files a timely application and is eligible for the award of a Chafee Educational and Training Voucher be issued those funds.
- **AB 2597 (Cooley)** would provide that a family who will rely on AFDC-FC benefits to meet additional household expenses incurred due to the placement of a child or children shall not, for that reason, be denied approval as a resource family. The bill would also, among other things, provide that a family approved only for the placement of a specific child or children be reassessed prior to the placement of any other or additional children. The bill would also provide, in specified circumstances, that if the resource family approval process is not completed within 90 days after placement due to circumstances outside the control of the resource family, then the beginning date of aid for AFDC-FC shall be no later than 90 days after placement. The bill would also require that a determination to deny approval of a resource family be reviewed by county staff at the supervisory or administrative level, for compliance with the approval standards, as specified.

**NOTE:** To view other child-related bills currently pending in the California Legislature, please [click here](#).

**CAI Presentation on New Laws Impacting California Children and Families** (Jan. 4, 2016)

## Federal —

- [CAI Supports Children's Bill of Rights House Resolution](#) (Oct. 28, 2015)
- [CAI comments on Senator Wyden's discussion draft bill to invest funding in prevention and family services](#) (June 12, 2015) [[click here](#) to view draft discussion bill]