



April 3, 2018

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

**Re: AB 2043 (Arambula) – Foster youth: response system
As Amended on March 19, 2018 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing on April 10, 2018 – Assembly Human Services Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

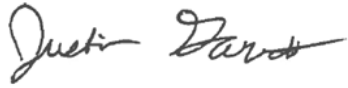
The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to have a SUPPORT position on AB 2043 by Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula. This bill would establish a Family Urgent Response System to provide immediate response to current or former foster youth and their caregivers in times of emotional crisis that will help keep families intact.

Counties are working diligently to implement the multi-pronged systematic changes that are incorporated within the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). CSAC remains committed to implementation of CCR and identifying opportunities for further enhancements that will help achieve the improved outcomes envisioned by CCR. A key goal of CCR is to reduce the use of congregate care and serve foster youth with needed services in home-based settings, cared for by committed resource families. Unfortunately, one element missing from CCR implementation efforts is an immediate response system to stabilize youth in their homes and communities during times of emotional or behavioral stress. Without this support, youth and their caregivers can feel quickly overwhelmed. This can result in the breakdown of that family unit, leading to a placement disruption which further traumatizes the youth, or calls to law enforcement which send the youth down the undesired path of the juvenile justice system.

AB 2043 will help to fill this gap by providing immediate access to de-escalation and behavioral support interventions on the phone and in the home at the moment when the need arises. AB 2043 accomplishes this by establishing a statewide, toll-free number for foster youth and their caregivers to access real-time assistance and make a direct connection to local response systems. These local response systems would provide an in-person response to assess and stabilize the situation and link the youth and caregiver to the existing array of county- and community-based services. Both the state-level and local response teams would include responders trained in trauma-informed care and with expertise in diffusing a crisis and linking families to ongoing supports and services.

AB 2043 would help prevent the unnecessary separation of the youth from their caregiver and will ensure access to needed services in a time of crisis. This bill will help achieve the improved outcomes sought through CCR. It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 2043 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 650-8117 or jgarrett@counties.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Garrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Justin" and last name "Garrett" clearly distinguishable.

Justin Garrett
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Human Services Committee
Marla Cowan, Office of Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula
Daphne Hunt, Consultant, Assembly Human Services Committee
Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association
Mary Adèr, County Behavioral Health Directors Association
Susannah Kniffen, Children Now