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ViviendasLeón





A version of this letter was sent to the following individuals:

Governor Gavin Newsom Senator Anna Caballero Assemblymember Ash Kalra

July 31, 2024

RE: In strong support of AB 2496 (The Foster Family Agency Accountability Act)

California's foster family system is on the verge of collapse due to imminent loss of insurance for foster family agencies (FFAs). We know that sometimes mere problems are brought to you and represented as crises.

This is not one of those times.

A collapse of California's foster family system will hurt the 9,000 children presently in resource homes. If FFAs lose their insurance coverage and can no longer serve children and families, children across the state will be at risk of losing thousands of caregivers, and counties will experience a severe placement crisis resulting from a lack of safe and stable settings for children.

As California foster family agencies whose mission is to protect these children, we implore you to pass AB 2496, The Foster Family Agency Accountability Act in a form that allows FFAs to be insurable.

FFAs are nonprofit organizations licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division of the California State Department of Social Services to engage in the recruiting, approving, training of, and providing professional support to, resource parent(s); or in finding homes for placement of children for temporary or permanent care who require that level of care as an alternative to a group home. In their contracts with FFAs, counties require FFAs to carry insurance.

Over the past several years, we have been alarmed as one insurance company after the other has refused to renew our property/casualty insurance policies. Simultaneously, counties have increased insurance requirements and introduced clauses into their contracts which shift their liabilities onto us.

As the insurance market has shrunk, we have come to rely on a state-authorized, nonprofit risk pool called Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California (NIAC), which insures 12,000 501(c)(3) nonprofits in California — including 90% of California FFAs.

NIAC has successfully insured FFAs for 35 years, and they assure us that FFAs have not become uninsurable because they are less diligent in protecting children, but because of changes to the judicial system, which are now holding FFAs responsible for the negligence and bad acts of others, over which FFAs have no control. NIAC recently made it clear to us that, if AB 2496 does not become law by September 30, 2024, in a form that allows FFAs to be insurable, they will be forced to issue nonrenewals to all California FFAs they presently insure. This will cause a collapse of California's foster family system.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, NIAC is accountable to all of the nonprofits that rely on it and cannot jeopardize its financial solvency for FFAs that represent less than 10% of its business.

As FFAs, it is our duty and responsibility to take every reasonable step to assure the safety and wellbeing of the children in these resource families. Nothing in AB 2496 will release us from our responsibilities to these children.

Respectfully,

Deborah Wenger, 4Evergreen Foster Family Agency, Inc.

David Channer, A Better Way

Monica Dirr, A Better Way

Patricia Souto, A Better Way

Jeanie Lynch, A Better Way

Warner Graham, A Better Way Inc.

Tatiana Stewart, A Better Way Inc.

Paige Baker, A Better Way, Inc.

Anne Grascoeur, A Better Way, Inc.

Sharon Brown, A Better Way, Inc.

Justine Wang, A Better Way, Inc.

Jilleen Ward, A Better Way, Inc.

Rocio Medina, A Better Way, Inc.

Lark Baum, A Better Way, Inc.

David McCoy, A Coming of Age Foster Family Agency

Betty Cowley, A Greater Hope

Barbara Pitts, A Greater Hope

Erin Wikert, A Greater Hope

Amanda Bell, A Greater Hope

Tamiko Henderson, A Greater Hope

Brenna Perry, A Greater Hope

Maia Payne, A Greater Hope

Luis Villarreal, A Greater Hope

Barbara Basham, A Greater Hope

Elizabeth Curtis-Moore, A Greater Hope

Vanessa Sandoval, A Greater Hope

Celia Ibarra, A Greater Hope

Isela Camacho, A Greater Hope

Ashlea McCall, A Greater Hope

Dawn Ellen Hutchens, A Greater Hope

Andrea Nelson, A Greater Hope

Mary Frame, A Greater Hope

MarySue Swift, A Greater Hope

Kathy A Davis, A Greater Hope

James Woods, A Greater Hope

Erika Camachoq, A Greater Hope

Hannah Hodges, A Greater Hope

Julia Reynaga, A Greater Hope

ReChelle Brown, A Greater Hope

Natalie Lopez, A Greater Hope

Annette Reyes, A Greater Hope FFA

Jenna Hepner, A Greater Hope FFA

Rachaelle Newberry, A Greater Hope Foster Family Agency

Marcia Palmer Parkinson, A Greater Hope Foundation

Nicole Ramos, A Greater Hope Foundation for Children

Suzette Mohammed, A New Beginning FFA

Nicole Johnson, Abrazo Foster Family Agency

Janet Kleyn, Agape Villages Foster Family Agency

Kerry Ahearn, Aldea

Luigi Grimaldi-Evangelista, Alliance Human Services, Inc.

Saif Amin, Allies For Every Child

Jenessa Sargent, Alpha Treatment Centers

Koryn Marshall, Alternative Family Services

Deasy Elfiera, Alternative Family Services

Karen Valenzuela, Alternative Family Services

Marsha Lewis-Akyeem, Alternative Family Services, Inc.

Martha E. Duarte, Alternative Family Services, Inc.

Donny Smoke Adolph, American Indian Child Resource Center

Mary Trimble Norris, American Indian Child Resource Center

Yvette Torres, American Indian Child Resource Center

Carine Wynant, American Indian Child Resource Center

Jeff Wiemann, Angels Foster Family Network

Elizabeth Terrones, Angels of Grace Foster Family Agency

Alice Dorothy, Ark Homes Foster Family Agency

Bob Aguilar, Ark Homes Foster Family Agency

David Mathias, Ark Homes Foster Family Agency

Vernon Brown, Aspiranet

Sharla Hutchison, Aspiranet

Shamra Tripp, Aspiranet

Angelica Limon, Avant-Garde FFA

Amber Rivas, Aviva Family & Children's Services

Carolyn Labbe, Aviva Family and Children Services

Craig Zacuto, M.A., LMFT, Beta Foster Care, FFA

Rosalie Puleo, Bridgelink

Jasmine Mason, Building Bridges FFA

Robert Mathias, Building Bridges Foster Family Agency

Mary Snow, California Family Life Center

Wilma Tom Hashimoto, CASA of Fresno and Madera Counties

Katie Pollock, Casa Pacifica

Shawna Morris, Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families

Amy Lipps, CCHCS

Bob Phillips, Changed Lives Inc

Lakeyia, Child Net Youth and Family Services

Denise Biben, Childhelp

Judy Jensen, Childhelp

Alison Moriarty, Childhelp

Tracy Abel, Childhelp

Shanen Foye, Childhelp

Katherine Canada, Childhelp

Nancy Cardin, Childhelp

Myrna Levy, Childhelp

Patricia Edwards, Childhelp

Janet Ronnenberg, Childhelp

Mary Schultz, Childhelp

Myrna Levy, Childhelp

Linda Eng, Childhelp

Patricia Ford, Childhelp

Jenny Golden, Childhelp

Ashley West, ChildHelp

Mary Allyn Deter, Childhelp National

Joyce Simon, Childhelp OC

Lori Huling, Childhelp of Indian Wells

Kathy Hughes, ChildNet Youth and Family Services, Inc.

Shannon Pierce, Children First FFA

Brad Williams, Children First Foster Family Agency

Sarah Peery, Children's Legacy Center

Ron Brown, Children's Bureau of Southern California

Adam Seiden, Children's Bureau of Southern California

Kevin Tippets, Children's Hope Foster Family Agency

Diane Boubon, Children's Plus FFA

Diana Hawkins, Children's Plus FFA

Sandra M. Beverly, MA, ASW, Children's Plus FFA

Ramona Blake, Children's Plus Foster Family Agency

Stacy Dinkel, Chrysalis House, Inc.

Claudia Mercier, Contra Costa Foster Friends

Douglas Yost, Crittenton Services for Children and Families

Daniel S. Maydeck, David & Margaret Home, Inc. Foster Family Agency and Serinity Home, Inc. Foster Family Agency

Theresa Foster, Dimondale Adolescent Care Facility

Barbara Cox, Exodus Farms Ministry

Barnaby Murff, Extraordinary Families

Bonnie Sharpe, Extraordinary Families

Christina Hedrick, Extraordinary Families

Stephanie Carmona, Extraordinary Families

Paola Lopez, Extraordinary Families

Elliana Akiyoshi, Extraordinary Families

Joy Sinclair, Extraordinary Families

Jackie Takarabe, Extraordinary Families

Kayla Sberna, Extraordinary Families

Stacie Ruhl, Extraordinary Families

Danielle Calderon, Extraordinary Families

Lorena Bernal, Extraordinary Families

Alejandra Hernandez Flores, Extraordinary Families

Liliana Villa-Rechav, Extraordinary Families

Luis Tlalacalco, Extraordinary Families

Ana Torres, Extraordinary Families

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Mayra Love, Families Uniting Families

Nancy Montejo, Families Uniting Families

Jill Jacobs, Family Builders by Adoption

Jonathan Nibbio, Family Care Network, inc

Jeff Carlson, Family Care Network, Inc.

Elizabeth Gonzalez, Five Acres

Laura De La Cruz, Five Acres

Kristyn Barney, Five Acres

Erin Brown, FosterHope Sacramento

Mark Adams, Esq., Friend of Childhelp

Kristin Withrow, Golden State Family Services

Joe Lopez, Greater Hope Foundation for Children

Catherine Woody, Greater Hope Foundation for Children, Inc.

Lorena Flores, Happy Children Resource Center FFA

Elda P. Guerra, Happy Children Resource Center FFA

Mayra Salazar, Hillsides

Jose Jesus Gonzalez, Humble Homes Resource Family Agency

Mark Thompson, Indian Dispute Resolution Services, Inc.

Vonda Manley, Indian Wells, CA Chapter

Liliana Mejia, Inner Circle Foster Family Agency, Inc.

Sandro Villa, Inner Circle Foster Family Agency, Inc.

Maria Kivrizis, Kamali'i FFA

Lee Burton, Kamali'i Foster Family Agency

Eric Mortensen, Kamali'i Foster Family Agency, Inc.

Lorna Mortensen, Kamali'i Foster Family Agency, Inc.

Danielle Vieira Karing, 4Kids Foster Family Agency

Katherine Yeom, KFAM

Kyle Castillo, Kids Kasa Foster Care

Edward McFiels, Knotts Family Agency

Tiffany Sickler, Koinonia

Laura Richardson, Koinonia Family Services

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Robyn Harrod Korean, American Family Services

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Liz Qaqiesh, Litehouse Children & Family Services

Chris Murray, McKinley

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Anil Vadapart, McKinley

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Sara Hinman, Member of Childhelp

Eileen Sau, Member of Childhelp

Robin McDonald, Member of ChildHelp

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Lillian Rogers, New Dimensions Foster Family Agency

Shannon Roberts, New Dimensions Foster Family Agency

Teresa Ramos, New Era FFA

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Jennifer Oei, Olive Crest

David Tribbey, Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services

Diana Macias, Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services

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Eva M. Terrazas, Pacific Clinics

Lesley-Reid Harrison, Pajaro Valley Pride

Robert Pye, Paradise Oaks Youth Services

Tony Yadon, Parents by Choice

Charito Guerrero, Penny Lane Centers

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Laura Romero, Quality Foster Care

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Francelle Alexander, Quality Foster Care

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Maria Aguilera, Quality Foster Care

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Phillip Blackman, Quality Foster Care

Martin Ceballos, Quality Foster Care

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Audrey Cross, Quality Foster Care

Maria Damas, Quality Foster Care

Wanda Easter, Quality Foster Care

Susana Gonzalez, Quality Foster Care

Rudy Frutis, Quality Foster Care

James Jackson, Quality Foster Care

Joy Johnson, Quality Foster Care

Lorena Heras, Quality Foster Care

Crystal Joyce, Quality Foster Care

Claudia Martinez, Quality Foster Care

Shana Moultrie, Quality Foster Care

Everlee Munoz, Quality Foster Care

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Rosemarie Murica Bailey, Quality Foster Care

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Rebecca Najar, Quality Foster Care

Federico Najar, Quality Foster Care

Adrian Neri, Quality Foster Care

Blanca Pineda, Quality Foster Care

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Ericka Quijano, Quality Foster Care

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Leticia Galyean, Seneca Family of Agencies

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Ashley Friend, Sierra Child & Family Services

Suzy McLoed, Sierra Child & Family Services

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Amber Westbrook, Sierra Child & Family Services

Guadalupe Rivas, Sierra Child & Family Services

Devon Reynoso, Sierra Child and Family

Shannon Spicer, Sierra Child and Family

Brandi Stahr, Sierra Child and Family

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Michelle Harwell, Sierra Child and Family Services

Daniel Sauve, Sierra Child and Family Services

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Staci Nelson, Sierra Child and Family Services

Amber Odom, Sierra Child and Family Services

Vanesa Padilla, Sierra Child and Family Services

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Jenyn Darnell, Sierra Child and Family Services

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Breane Crawford, Sierra Child and Family Services

Mitch DelaRiva, Sierra Child and Family Services

Chelsea Truax, Sierra Child and Family Services

Leeroy Dixon, Sierra Child and Family Services

Becky Patsey, Sierra Child and Family Services, Inc.

Mark Taylor, Sierra Child and Family Services, Inc.

Jamie Neal, Sierra Child and Family Specialist

Rebekah A. Rodriguez, Social Services

Mary Forthun, Social Vocational Services

Ellen McGuirk, South Coast Children's Society dba South Coast Community Services

Gina Peck-Sobolewski, St. Anne's Family Services

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Laura Heintz, Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

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Cecilia R. Pace, Starshine Treatment Center

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Sandy Miyamoto, Sulia's Hope

Kishia Larkins, Summitview Child and Family Services

Wendy Wang, Sycamores

Zenia Canas, Sycamores

Jessa Garippo, The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency

Lia Andrews, The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency

Carrie Mathews, The Heart Matters Foster Family Agency

Deborah Hoffman, The Village Family Services

Madalena Cooper, The Village Family Services

Heather Oakley, There is Hope FFA

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Kimmie Meleski, Valley Teen Ranch

Adriana Luna, Valley Teen Ranch

Mariah Torres, Valley Teen Ranch

Isaiah Green, Valley Teen Ranch

Donna Callahan, Valley Teen Ranch

Michael Zachry, Valley Teen Ranch

Michael Lipps, Valley Teen Ranch

Valerie Alvarez, Valley Teen Ranch

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Lorraine Romero, Victor Treatment Centers

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Karriann Farrell Hinds, Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services

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Carrie Sanchez, Walden Family Services

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Beth Parsons, Youth For Change