



*“CYC allows young people to be immortal.
We get to see that immortal stamp: I did that.
We always know we’ve made that change in the world.”
-Patterson Emesibe
Volunteer Supporter, Peer Mentor, and Former Member*

Board of Directors

June 14, 2024

David Channer
Board Chair

To:

Darryn Green
Vice Chair

Senator Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O St. (Room 6530)
Sacramento, CA 94578

Marissa Miller
Treasurer

Lucy Salcido Carter
Secretary

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

Robin Allen

Dear Senator Umberg:

Sarah Bess Hudson

Kimberly Coronel

California Youth Connection is a youth-led organization that develops and grows leaders who empower each other and our communities to transform the foster care and intersecting systems through community-led organizing, legislative, policy, and practice change.

Joshua Elizondo

Ricardo Ortega

Steven Shaw

Our vision is that youth impacted by child welfare and intersecting systems are empowered to have their needs met and the support to grow into healthy and vibrant adults.

We have recently learned that California’s foster family system is on the verge of collapse due to imminent loss of their insurance.

A collapse of California’s foster family system will hurt the 9,000 children presently in resource homes overseen by Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) doing government mandated work to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.



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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, and training of, and providing professional support to, certified 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.

AB 2496, The Foster Family Agency Accountability Act, is not tort reform, nor is it intended to release negligent parties from being held accountable for negligence or wrongdoing. To the contrary, it is a reasonable proposal to create a level playing field so that everyone has clear guidelines about the legal process required in the event it is alleged FFAs have caused harm to children.

Nothing in AB 2496 changes the requirement that FFAs conduct their evaluation and oversight of foster homes in a manner that is consistent with the requirements established by California. It simply makes it clear that the judicial system may not hold FFAs responsible for the bad acts or negligence of others, over whom they have no control.

We urge your full support of AB 2496, Foster Family Agency Accountability Act.

Respectfully,

Rob Woronoff, MS
Interim Executive Director

The California Youth Connection is a 510(c)(3) non-profit organization, 100% of your donation to CYC is tax deductible. Our Tax I.D. number is 94-3141616. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your gift.

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