



Supporting caregivers, protecting children
stepupforkin.org

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Coalition Members



CHILDREN NOW



MAY REVISE SILENT ON KIN EQUITY RESPONSIBILITY LIES WITH THE LEGISLATURE

The California Legislature should allocate additional child welfare dollars in the state's May budget revise to pull California out of the dark ages in its treatment of kinship foster children

LOS ANGELES (May 15, 2014) – Earlier this week, Governor Jerry Brown released the May Revise of his proposed 2014-15 budget for the State of California. The governor now projects an extra \$2.4 billion in revenue in the coming year, providing the state with an opportunity to invest in the futures of our most vulnerable children and families—foster children who are placed with relatives, but not supported with foster care funding to meet their basic needs.

Over the past year, the Step Up Coalition, led by the Alliance for Children's Rights, has joined together to advocate for equitable support for foster children placed with relatives. California is the only state in the nation that does not provide state only foster care benefits to relative foster parents who meet the same approval standards as a non-relative, as all of California's relative foster parents do.

"If I was a non-relative, I would be paid one standard but because I'm a relative, I'm paid another. I'm up with her every night. I love her. I care for her. My family sacrifices greatly for her. And my question for you is what makes a non-relative's time, love and effort worth more than the time, love and effort that I put into Isabella?" said Donita, a relative foster parent who testified at the California Budget Subcommittee hearing on February 26.

The administration and legislature are certainly aware of the problem – Step Up Coalition members have testified in Assembly and Senate budget hearings, presented at the Child Welfare Council and visited dozens of policymakers around the state. The editorial boards of the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) and [Los Angeles Times](#) have called on the state to fix the inequity this year.

While the Governor's May Revise is silent on the issue, the Step Up Coalition is confident that California's leadership understands the urgent need to provide better support to relative caregivers, and we look forward to continue to partner with the legislature to craft a solution for inclusion in the 2014-15 budget. Keep up with our efforts at the Step Up website at stepupforkin.org.

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Step Up is a campaign dedicated to ensuring that foster children placed with relatives receive the benefits, supports and services they need to thrive. Relatives step up for our state's foster children every day. It's time for California to step up for them.

The **Alliance for Children's Rights** protects the rights of impoverished, abused and neglected children and youth. By providing free legal services and advocacy, the Alliance ensures children have safe, stable homes, healthcare and the education they need to thrive. For more information, visit kids-alliance.org.