Place on your organization’s letterhead (if applicable) and **Please email to jorge.barajas@sen.ca.gov; and cc s.ezrine@kids-alliance.org**

[Date]

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker

California State Assembly

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 213 – Placement of children: criminal records check (SUPPORT)**

Dear Speaker Rendon,

[Name of organization] is pleased to support SB 213 (Mitchell), which will reduce unnecessary delays in relative placement for children in foster care and will expand the number of available foster care placements by streamlining the process by which a prospective caregiver’s criminal history is reviewed.

[Insert a one to three sentence paragraph about your organization]

SB 213 will help ensure that children in foster care are placed with relatives or family friends whenever possible. With changes that do not compromise child safety, SB 213 will streamline the complex exemption process and will simplify the law by aligning the list of non-exemptible crimes with those required by federal law. California law will continue to prohibit – without any discretion to make exemptions – placement with any person with a serious or violent felony conviction (no matter how long ago), or with an assault, battery, or drug-related felony conviction within the past 5 years. Less serious crimes that did not involve violence, sexual misconduct, or harm to children, and that occurred many years ago, will be handled through a simplified exemption process that relieves prospective caregivers – and county social workers – of an unnecessarily burdensome and time-consuming process of collecting and reviewing extensive documentation.

SB 213 removes the needless impediments to appropriate relative and foster care placements. We urge you to expand the availability of safe and loving homes for children in foster care by giving this important legislation your “aye” vote.

Sincerely,

[INSERT Your Full Name]

[INSERT Your Title (if applicable)]

Cc: Senator Mitchell

 Members of the California State Assembly