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Email to Jorge.Barajas@sen.ca.gov and s.ezrine@kids-alliance.org

[DATE]

The Honorable Holly Mitchell

State Capitol, Room 4080

Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 1083 (Mitchell) – Making RFA Work: Reducing Barriers for Families – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Mitchell:

On behalf of [Organization], I am writing in support of SB 1083, which will take important steps forward to improve the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process for foster caregivers in California.

[Insert paragraph about your organization]

Currently, the RFA approval takes far longer than the originally estimated 90 days to complete with many families spending upwards of six months to achieve approval. This causes financial hardship for relatives and non-related extended family members who accept placement prior to approval and may lead to delays in children exiting permanence. Conversely, when pre-approval placement options are not used, children linger in temporary housing arrangements that are not sustainable.

SB 1083 will prevent this trade-off by making a series of practical improvements to the RFA process, including requiring counties to complete RFA within 90-days, grandfathering-in families who were approved as caregivers prior to RFA, requiring documentation in the court record regarding the amount and source of financial support a youth is receiving, and permitting months spent with a caregiver prior to approval to count toward the durational requirement for exiting foster care to the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment program.

RFA was intended to be a family-friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process that eliminates duplication of existing processes and allows for a seamless transition to permanency.SB 1083 will ensure that RFA achieves these very important goals.

For these reasons, [Organization] is pleased to support SB 1083.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title, Organization]