Please send to Theresa.Pena@sen.ca.gov and luan.huynh@sen.ca.gov for Senate Budget and [Nicole.vazquez@asm.ca.gov](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CWilliamSmith%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5C5K20PZ3N%5CNicole.vazquez%40asm.ca.gov) and Karina.Porcayo@asm.ca.gov for Assembly Budget

(date)

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair The Honorable Tony Thurmond, Chair

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

State Capitol, Room 5080 State Capitol, Room 5150

Sacramento, CA 95814 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Mitchell and Assembly Member Thurmond:

[Organization Name] supports the Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children budget proposal. This program would increase access to early care education services for abused or neglected children across the State. Attached please find a fact sheet that includes more details about the proposal.

County child welfare agencies rely on the commitment of countless foster families to provide children with a safe and loving home during their times of crisis. Many willing foster parents have identified that the lack of access to child care services is a barrier to provide a home for a foster child. It is, therefore, in our interest to do everything we can to remove these barriers. In addition, we know that, for all the benefits that high quality child care has on children ages 0 to 5, the impact can be far more dramatic for children who have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect and removal from their homes.

The Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children would provide 1) an emergency child care voucher for up to six months for foster children and children of parenting foster youth ages of 0 through 3; 2) the foster family with enhanced support of child care navigators; and 3) professional development component in trauma-informed care, ensuring that child care providers have the training they need to care for the youngest of our abused and neglected children. The voucher would serve as a bridge, transitioning families to long-term, high quality early education programs.

[Organization Name] agrees that this is very important and strongly support this legislative effort. We are looking forward to working with you as you consider this important proposal and the support it will provide to our State’s most vulnerable population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

c: Each Member and consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and

Human Services

 Each Member and consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1 on Health and

Human Services