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Email to debra.cooper@sen.ca.gov and cc: deepen.gagneja@asm.ca.gov and s.ezrine@kids-alliance.org

[DATE]

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino

Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

State Capitol, Room 3086

Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 2337 (Gipson) – Extended Foster Care - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of [Organization], I am writing in support of AB 2337, which will help eliminate administrative barriers so that youth in need of transitional services are able to enter or re-enter extended foster care.

[Insert paragraph about your organization]

The extended foster care program was signed into law in 2010 (AB 12, Statutes of 2010) giving youth in foster care the opportunity to remain in foster care up to age 21. Many foster youth who have not achieved permanency by age 18 rely on the extended foster care program for additional years of supports and services. However, since the program’s implementation, there have been unintended administrative hurdles that prevent certain youth from being able to access the program.

AB 2337 will address specific technical barriers that prevent a foster youth’s access to extended foster care. The bill ensures that youth who are ordered into a foster care placement but who do not reach the final adjudication of their case until after age 18 maintain their right to have their case fully adjudicated through appeal. AB 2337 also ensures youth are not delayed in exercising their existing right to re-enter foster care in the event that their guardian or adoptive parent ceases to provide support by allowing youth to petition the court for re-entry in cases where the Adoption Assistance Payment (AAP) or Kinship Guardianship Assistance (Kin-GAP) funding has not yet been terminated by the county.

AB 2337 will ensure that foster youth are able to access the extended foster care program to receive the supports and services they need to successfully transition to adulthood.

For these reasons, [Organization] is pleased to support AB 2337.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title, Organization]