



SB 426 (Pan): Community Based Home Visitation Pilot Program

Position: Sponsor/Support

The CAP Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of California's children by building community resources, enhancing public awareness, developing and coordinating prevention programs, and facilitating advocacy activities.

Background

Child abuse has long-term economic and societal costs for California. By failing to interrupt cycles of poverty and child abuse, we set up our children—and our economy—to fail. There were 482,265 reports of child abuse in California in 2013. The costs associated with this abuse in California are direct and indirect as the victim ages and affect health care, child welfare, criminal justice, special education costs and more.

Each child and family that enters into the child welfare system in California can cost upward of \$210,000. For only \$700/parent per year, however, entities like The Child Abuse Prevention Center through its network of family resource centers can provide one year of voluntary home visitation for a family. Quality home visitation programs have demonstrated tremendous results in improved health, increased access to services, reduced risk of child abuse and neglect, increased breastfeeding, increased school performance, etc.

The State of California has been utilizing federal funds to provide limited funding for home visitation. California Volunteers has invested in a home visitation approach that utilizes AmeriCorps members recruited from the community in which they serve to provide home visitation to at-risk families. The challenge comes to funding greater capacity and a broader, statewide approach.

Solution

SB 426 (Pan) seeks to establish a pilot program to implement the Community Based Home Visitation Pilot Program based on the Sacramento County Birth & Beyond Family Resource Center model. This Program, as modeled in the bill, utilizes community members trained through AmeriCorps to deliver intensive home visitation services and outreach to families. The Sacramento Program successfully demonstrated that families who received the associated services were 173% less likely to enter in to the child welfare system. The Pilot Program to be established under SB 426 seeks to implement this model under three family resource centers around the state to test its effectiveness and scalability for long-term implementation as a statewide approach to home visitation to reduce child abuse and neglect.

Overall, SB 426 will help reduce child abuse and neglect while strengthening families, lifting them out of poverty and reducing the indirect costs child abuse and neglect have on other parts of the state budget.

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