

[ORGANIZATION LOGO]

[DATE]

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2054  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 436 (Hurtado) –SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Hurtado:

On behalf of [ORGANIZATION NAME] we are pleased to support and sponsor your SB 436 related to Family Resource Centers (FRC).

SB 436 would formalize Family Resource Centers (FRC) as a key delivery network of services and as conduits to strengthening families via family-centered, community-based and culturally sensitive services that include cross-system collaboration as a means to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Nearly two-thirds of California adults have experienced at least one “adverse childhood experience” (ACE)—including physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or living within a household characterized by dysfunction such as a family member with chronic substance abuse issues. Research shows that early childhood adversities negatively impact a child’s developmental functioning, increasing risks of social, emotional, academic, psychological, and behavioral problems. The lifetime impacts of child abuse ripple throughout our society with abuse costing our nation a staggering \$200 million every single day in funding associated with increased utilization of the child welfare, foster care, health care, mental health, social services, criminal justice, education, and beyond. To the Bay Area alone—representing 19% of our state’s population—the total economic burden was more than \$2.0 billion for victims in 2017 alone.<sup>1</sup> Research is in progress to calculate the cost of child abuse across the state and every county.

Unfortunately, however, California’s current approach towards child safety and wellbeing is predominately reactive—not preventative. This is unfortunate as evidence shows that primary prevention programs, such as home visitation, can decrease child abuse by up to 48%<sup>2</sup> and education programs show a \$19 to \$1 social return on investment.<sup>3</sup> While child welfare has made important shifts in its models of care, even greater opportunities exist to address the root causes by focusing upstream on early-intervention and prevention,

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<sup>1</sup> Safe & Sound, The Economics of Child Abuse: A Study of the Bay Area (2018). Retrieved from <https://safeandsound.org/economics-child-abuse-study-san-francisco/>.

<sup>2</sup> Olds D, Eckenrode J, Henderson C, Kitzman H, Powers, J, Cole R, Sidora K, Morris P, Pettitt L, Luckey D. Long-term effects of home visitation on maternal life course and child abuse and neglect: a 15-year follow-up of a randomized trial. JAMA 1997; 278(8):637-643.

<sup>3</sup> Noor, Caldwell and Strong, The Costs of Child Abuse vs. Child Abuse Prevention: A Multi-year Follow-up in Michigan (2005); [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ctf/cost2005\\_528033\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ctf/cost2005_528033_7.pdf)

combating abuse before it happens. Unlike child welfare systems across the nation who have leveraged a variety of strategies and regulatory frameworks to fund and sustain their local Family Resource Centers (FRC) as successful upstream, early-intervention and prevention organizations, California has not. Many California FRCs have historically and continue to apply ad-hoc funding, often piecing together blended strategies through private donations and county dollars, including general fund or declining First 5 funding. A key reason is FRCs are not recognized entities under state law.

Since the 1970's, Family Resource Centers (FRCs) have emerged throughout the United States and in California as a "place-based" approach that invests in preventing child abuse and building community. Since that time, the number of FRCs in California has grown to an estimated 500, with networks at both statewide and regional levels. California FRCs are focused on strengthening families, building communities and mitigating risk factors which lead to abuse. A critical partner to government agencies in recent years, FRCs have played a major role in Affordable Care Act and Covered California education and outreach; Franchise Tax Board outreach to those eligible for earned income credits; California Department of Social Services immigration-related education and support; and disaster-relief post-fire and earthquakes - strategies designed to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

SB 436 seeks to formalize "family resource centers" (FRC) in statute, formally recognizing their involvement in programmatic activities already underway within the Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

[ADD INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FRC & COMMUNITIES YOUR ORGANIZATION SERVES]

For these reasons, we appreciate your support and leadership on SB 436.). If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Koepke with McHugh Koepke & Associates (916) 930-1993. Thank you!

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION]

cc: Marisa Shea, Consultant, Senate Human Services Committee  
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy  
Members, CFRA