***Submitted via Email to:***

*AsmBudget@asm.ca.gov* *&* *SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov*

March XX, 2022

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula The Honorable Susan Eggman

Chair Chair

Assembly Budget SubCommittee #1 Senate Budget SubCommittee #3

1021 O Street, Suite 6240 1021 O Street, Suite 8530

Sacramento, CA 95814 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: $40M Request to Stabilize & Strengthen Family Resource Centers (FRC)**

Dear Chairs Arambula and Eggman:

On behalf of <<NAME OF ORGANIZATION>>, I am pleased to support the budget request sponsored by the Child Abuse Prevention Center, California Family Resource Association, and California Alliance of Child & Family Services to provide an ongoing allocation of $40 million annually to family resource centers (FRC) to provide comprehensive, cost effective and culturally responsive support to children and families who are some of the most marginalized in our communities, particularly amid the impacts of the pandemic and resulting economic crisis.

Family Resource Centers play a vital role in communities throughout California, serving as trusted partners connecting children and families to resources and services that help lessen the everyday stressors that can often be a precursor to child abuse and neglect. FRCs are embedded in underserved communities and operate at the neighborhood level, with leadership, staff, and volunteers from and reflective of the local community. They are uniquely positioned to provide family-strengthening supports that are community based and culturally sensitive, and that increase equity and opportunity for all. Their mission has been committed to helping children and families by providing high quality care across an array of services, programs and basic needs to the most vulnerable populations. In this time of unprecedented public health crisis, children and families--now more than ever--count on FRCs’ support and guidance to help connect them to essential county, state and federal services and programs.

We greatly appreciate the COVID-19 response funding provided by the Newsom Administration and Legislature the last two budget cycles to help the children and families most impacted by the pandemic. However, as that funding drops off later this year, FRCs statewide will find it exceedingly difficult to continue providing services without ongoing funding, forcing many to decrease service levels at exactly the same time that needs continue to grow exponentially.

We urge you to support the request to stabilize and strengthen FRCs by providing $40 million annually. <<NAME OF ORGANIZATION>> appreciates your consideration of this budget request and strongly encourages your support for it in the Assembly and Senate’s budget packages.

If you have any questions regarding our position or the request itself, please contact Dawn Koepke, advocate with McHugh Koepke & Associates for the Child Abuse Prevention Center and California Family Resource Association, at dkoepke@mchughgr.com or (916) 606-5309. Thank you.

Sincerely,

<<NAME>>

<<TITLE>>

Cc: California Family Resource Association