

ERIN HANNIGAN

District 1, (707) 553-5363

MONICA BROWN

District 2, Vice-Chair, (707) 784-3031

WANDA WILLIAMS

District 3, Chair Pro-Tem (707) 784-6136

JOHN M. VASQUEZ

District 4, Chair, (707) 784-6129

MITCH MASHBURN

District 5, (707) 784-6030

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SOLANO COUNTY

BILL EMLENCounty Administrator
(707) 784-6100675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342
Fax (707) 784-6665www.solanocounty.com

March 6, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: SUPPORT, Governor's January budget proposal to provide an additional \$35 million to the California Department of Child Support Services for support of local agencies

Dear Chairs Skinner and Ting,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the Governor's January budget proposal to provide an additional \$35.8 million (\$12.1 million State General Fund) to the California Department of Child Support Services for support of local child support agencies (LCSAs).

Child support is a vital component of efforts to address California's child poverty crisis. The Solano County Department of Child Support Services provides vital child support services to 12,081 children who rely on regular child support payments for necessities such as food, shelter and clothing. Most families participating in the child support program are low or very low-income households and are especially dependent on income received from reliable child support payments. As the current budget deficit raises the possibility of reductions in social safety net programs, the availability of child support services will become even more important.

Beginning in FY 2002/03, LCSAs were flat funded for over 15 years. A Level of Effort study was completed in 2018 which identified appropriate resource levels for each LCSA, with the intention of providing adequate funding to LCSAs over a three-year period. Due to several factors, the total amount of funding identified as necessary in the LOE study has not been provided, and LCSAs continue to be underfunded. In addition, new program mandates, such as the federal Flexibility, Efficiency and Modernization (FEM) Act, will create new workload mandates which are not compensated for in the Governor's budget proposal.

While these LCSA fiscal needs will continue, we recognize the challenging State budget environment within which the committees are working. Solano County appreciates the inclusion of these funds in the Governor's budget proposal and urges the committees to support their inclusion in the budget. For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support the Governor's January budget proposal to provide an additional \$35 million to the California Department of Child Support Services and LCSAs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez".

John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

Honorable Chairs Skinner and Ting

March 6, 2022

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CC:

The Honorable Bill Dodd, Senator

The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, Assemblymember

The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors

Liane Peck, Director, Solano County Child Support Services

Karen Lange, SYASL Partners