

**ICAN
ACTION ITEM
LEGISLATION - 2006**

AB 389 (ARAMBULA). Existing law encourages a private entity, in consultation with the Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC) Branch within the State Department of Health Services, to produce an informative brochure or booklet, for consumer use, explaining the child drowning hazards of, possible safety measures for, and appropriate drowning hazard prevention measures for, home swimming pools and spas, and to donate the document to the Department. Existing law requires the department to review and approve the document and to post the document on its Web site in a format that is readily available for downloading and publication.

This bill would authorize and encourage the department to produce and distribute such a document if one has not been donated and approved by January 1, 2007, or approved by the Department.

SUPPORT as amended on January 9, 2006.

AB 606 (LEVINE). This bill would require a school district to establish and publicize an antidiscrimination and antiharassment policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on specified characteristics, including, but not limited to, actual or perceived gender identity and sexual orientation. The bill would require a school district to take specified actions related to increasing awareness of, preventing, and ensuring appropriate responses, to incidences of discrimination and harassment based on those protected characteristics.

The bill would provide that a complaint of noncompliance with its provisions may be filed with the Department under the existing Uniform Complaint Procedures, as specified. The bill would allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction, if s/he determines that a school district is not in compliance, to use any means authorized by law to effect compliance, including, but not limited to, the withholding of all or part of the relevant state fiscal support of the school district. The bill would require the State Department of Education to display information on trainings, curricula, and other resources that specifically address bias-related discrimination and harassment based on any of the specified protected characteristics, as specified.

SUPPORT as amended on January 23, 2006.

AB 1774 (COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES). Current law authorizes a child welfare agency to secure from an appropriate governmental agency state summary criminal history information through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS), for three designated purposes: to conduct a child abuse investigation, to assess the appropriateness of placing a child in the approved home of a relative or nonrelative extended family member, and to try and locate a parent of a court dependent child. Existing law further requires a child welfare agency to ensure initiation of a state and federal level fingerprint check within 5 judicial days of the initiation of the CLETS check.

This bill would require the child welfare agency to ensure initiation of the fingerprint check only when the criminal background check is initiated for the purpose of assessing the appropriateness and safety of placing a child, and not when the background check is initiated for the other designated purposes. The bill would also require a child welfare agency to follow specified procedures during an emergency situation, as defined, for purposes of securing from an appropriate governmental criminal justice agency the federal level criminal history information of each adult residing in the home. The bill would further extend the time period to initiate fingerprint checks to 10 calendar days.

This bill would add to the designated purposes for which a background check may be initiated under these provisions to conduct an investigation into the suitability of returning a child to his or her parent or guardian subsequent to removal resulting from an investigation of child abuse or neglect. The bill would also authorize a state or county welfare agency, commencing July 1, 2007, to submit fingerprint images and specified related information required by the DOJ in connection with determining the suitability of a parent or legal guardian for reunification with a child, for the purpose of obtaining specified criminal record information relating to the parent or legal guardian.

SUPPORT as amended on March 20, 2006 if specific permissive language is included clarifying that child protective services *may* follow up a CLETS check with a fingerprint check (Live Scan) if deemed necessary.

AB 1872 (COHN). Current law provides that any person who, during the commission of a felony or attempted felony, knows or reasonably should know that the victim is pregnant, and who, with intent to inflict injury, and without the consent of the woman, personally inflicts injury upon a pregnant woman that results in termination of the pregnancy is subject to an enhancement of five years.

This bill would provide, instead, that any person who, during the commission of a felony or attempted felony, knows or reasonably should know that the victim is pregnant, and without the consent of the woman, personally inflicts great bodily injury upon a pregnant woman or inflicts injury upon a pregnant woman that results in the termination of the pregnancy is subject to an enhancement of five years.

SUPPORT as amended on March 28, 2006.

AB 1873 (TORRICO). Existing law designates certain locations as safe surrender sites for the safe surrender of newborn children who are 72 hours of age or younger.

This bill would expand the scope of these provisions to apply to children who are 30 days of age or younger and permit a local fire agency to act as a safe surrender site upon the approval of the appropriate local governing body. The bill would also appropriate \$5,000,000 to the Department of Social Services to conduct a statewide awareness campaign and to establish and operate a toll-free telephone number for assistance.

SUPPORT as amended on March 29, 2006 if the age of a child eligible for surrender remains at 72 hours of age or younger.

AB 1907 (LIEU). Under current law, the State Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse Prevention is authorized to allocate funding for child abuse treatment and prevention projects, including multidisciplinary services. Existing law defines “multidisciplinary personnel” for purposes of child abuse prevention services as a team of three or more persons trained in the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect cases and who are qualified to provide a broad range of services related to child abuse. Under existing law, a multidisciplinary personnel team may include, among others, psychiatrists, psychologists, and other trained counseling personnel.

This bill would revise the definition of multidisciplinary personnel to include marriage and family therapists.

SUPPORT as introduced on January 26, 2006.

AB 1949 (HORTON). Existing law defines those persons who are mandated to report child abuse and requires reports filed by mandated reporters to include certain specified information about the victim and the information that gave rise to the suspicion of child abuse and its source. Under existing law, a mandated reporter shall not be civilly or criminally liable for a report authorized by these provisions.

This bill would prohibit immunity from civil or criminal liability for an official or employee of a government agency who is a mandated reporter and, within the scope of his or her official duties, that official or employee, intentionally or with a reckless disregard for the truth, misrepresents child abuse or neglect, as specified.

OPPOSE as introduced on February 2, 2006. Committee members expressed concern that the bill would have a chilling effect on the reporting of suspicions of child abuse and neglect.

AB 1955 (LESLIE). This bill would require the Department of Social Services, in the process of investigating an abuse complaint against a foster parent/family, to consider a foster care client's documented history of making false accusations against a foster parent/family, to the extent such a documented history exists, or is known to be true by the investigator conducting the investigation. If the Department determines a complaint investigation to be inconclusive or unfounded, the bill would authorize the foster parent/family that is the subject of an investigation, to request that the foster care client be removed from the home, subject to applicable laws or regulations regarding notification and procedures for changing the placement of a child in foster care, and taking into consideration the rights of a foster child. The bill would prescribe procedures for the conduct of an investigative interview with a foster parent/family in connection with the complaint investigation, and would require that a representative of the county licensing agency responsible for the placement of the foster care client comply with specified requirements with regard to the investigation of those complaints.

OPPOSE as amended on March 27, 2006.

AB 1979 (BASS). Existing law requires that, before issuing any of specified documents allowing for the operation or management of a community care facility, the State Department of Social Services or other approving authority secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record with respect to the applicant or certain other persons, except as specified. Existing law requires the submission of the fingerprints of an applicant or other person who is not otherwise exempted from fingerprinting to the Department of Justice for the purpose of providing criminal record information, and requires the Department of Justice to provide notice of the criminal record information within 14 days of receiving the fingerprints. Existing law allows the Department of Justice to charge a fee sufficient to cover the cost of providing these services.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Justice from charging a fee for these services to any nonprofit organization that is approved by the state, city or county to provide mentoring services for children in foster care.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 9, 2006.

AB 1982 (BASS). Under the CalWORKS Program, California provides Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-GAP) to eligible children placed in the home of a relative caretaker. Eligibility requires that the children were previously adjudged dependents of the juvenile court and their dependency was dismissed on or after January 1, 2000. The Program is funded by state and county funding as well as available federal funds. Existing law continuously appropriates State General Funds for allocation to each county for 50% of the nonfederal share of the cost of Kin-GAP payments.

This bill would extend the Kin-GAP Program to include certain delinquent children who have been declared wards of the juvenile court. By expanding eligibility for Kin-GAP

payments, this bill would result in an appropriation, and would result in an increase in the level of county participation and administration of the Kin-GAP Program, thus constituting a state-mandated local program.

SUPPORT as amended on March 23, 2006.

AB 1983 (BASS). Existing law permits a foster child who receives AFDC-FC and attends high school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training on a full-time basis prior to his or her 18th birthday, to continue to receive aid following his or her 18th birthday, if the child continues to reside in foster care, remains otherwise eligible for AFDC-FC, and continues to attend high school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training on a full-time basis or is pursuing a high school equivalency certificate and if the child may reasonably be expected to complete the educational or training program before his or her 19th birthday. Existing law continuously appropriates moneys from the General Fund to defray a portion of county aid grant costs under the Cal WORKs Program, which includes the AFDC-FC program.

This bill would extend eligibility of an otherwise eligible child receiving AFDC-FC but who does not meet the eligibility conditions described above, for the period during which the child continues to remain in foster care placement, until the child finishes high school, obtains an equivalency certificate, or finishes the equivalent level of vocational or educational training, or until the child reaches 25 years of age, whichever occurs first. By extending the eligibility for AFDC-FC benefits, this bill would make an appropriation and increase the duties of counties administering the program, thus imposing a state-mandated local program.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 9, 2006.

AB 2031 (COHN). Existing law provides for the placement of dependent children by juvenile court. This bill would require the State to encourage the development of approaches that include ensuring that a search for relatives available for placement is initiated before permanent placement decisions are made for children who cannot be reunited with their families. The bill would require the State Department of Social Services to ensure that as many family members as possible of dependent children are identified, including drafting guidelines outlining best practices in the use of advanced technology to assist counties in identifying all relatives and nonrelative extended family members at the earliest possible time for a foster child.

SUPPORT as amended on March 29, 2006 and recommend insertion of “have been removed and” into WIC 16500.1 (b)(13), as follows: Ensure that a search for relatives available for placement is initiated before placement decisions are made for children who *have been removed and* are unable to be reunited with their families.

AB 2130 (DEVORE). Current law authorizes the juvenile court to terminate parental rights with respect to certain dependent children and to take specified action, including placing a child for adoption or appointing a legal guardian for a child. Existing law governs the adoption of children placed for adoption by a licensed county adoption agency or the State Department of Social Services.

This bill would, with respect to a dependent child for whom parental rights have been terminated or a child placed for adoption, require a court to consider the religious, cultural, moral, and ethnic values of the child or of his or her birth parents, if those values are known or ascertainable by the exercise of reasonable care before placing the child for adoption or appointing a legal guardian for the child.

OPPOSE as introduced on February 21, 2006. Committee expressed concern that this bill would violate the Federal Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA), thus jeopardizing federal funds and, possibly, could be used to further discriminate against non-traditional caregivers.

AB 2161 (HANCOCK). This bill would require the State Department of Social Services, in consultation with county welfare agencies, to implement a pilot program to establish a unified resource family approval process to replace the existing multiple processes for licensing foster family homes, approving relatives and nonrelated extended family members as foster care providers, and approving adoptive families. The bill would define a resource family for its purposes as an individual or couple that a participating county has approved to care for a related or unrelated child who is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court or otherwise in the care of a county child welfare agency. The bill would require the Department, prior to implementing the pilot program, to promulgate standards for home approval and permanency assessment for placing children in a resource family.

This bill would require the pilot program to be conducted in up to five counties that volunteer to participate and would authorize the pilot program to continue through the 2009-2010 fiscal year, or for three full fiscal years following the receipt of funding for the program, whichever is later. This bill would require a child placed in a resource family home that meets specified standards to be eligible for AFDC-FC, provide that a resource family be paid a specific AFDC-FC rate, and apply existing sharing rations for state financial participation.

SUPPORT as amended on March 27, 2006 and recommend that the term “couple” be replaced with “individuals” in WIC 16519.5 (c)(1), as follows: “For the purposes of this section, ‘resource family’ means an individual *or individuals* that a participating county has approved to care for a related or unrelated child who is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, or otherwise in the care of a county child welfare agency.” This language change would acknowledge adoption by two individuals (e.g., grandmother and aunt) who are not a “couple.”

AB 2193 (BASS). This bill would require the state to budget the child welfare services program in accordance with specified optimal caseload standards recommended by the Child Welfare Services Stakeholders Group. The bill would require the new budgeting standards to be phased in over a 5-year period, commencing with the 2006-07 fiscal year, and to be fully implemented by the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. It would require the Department, commencing in January 2007, to annually update the recommended budgeting standards, as specified. The bill would provide funds sufficient to match the county's base funding allocation for child welfare services in order to be eligible for the increased funding provided for by the bill. The bill would require the county to develop a plan for the use of the additional funds, and would require the county's system improvement plan, developed pursuant to a specified provision of existing law, to be modified to include the plan required by the bill.

SUPPORT as amended on March 28, 2006.

AB 2195 (BASS). Under existing law, when a child is taken into temporary custody and detained, the county welfare department is required to assess any available and requesting relative's or nonrelative extended family member's home and may place the child in the home upon completion of the assessment. The county welfare department is also required to evaluate and approve the home for AFDC-FC eligibility.

This bill would establish similar procedures for assessment and approval of a relative's or nonrelative extended family member's home when the sudden unavailability of a foster caregiver requires a temporary change in placement on an emergency basis, including provision for making these placements eligible for AFDC-FC payments.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish and support a public system of statewide child welfare services. Existing law declares a preference for placing a child who is removed from the physical custody of his or her parents with a relative who requests that placement.

This bill would require the Department to create an informational pamphlet that informs current and potential relative caregivers of the services and programs available to them, including an explanation of the differences and advantages and disadvantages of enrolling in different programs or types of care. The bill would require the information in the pamphlet to be available on the Department's Internet web site.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 22, 2006 and recommend that language be clarified to insure that statutorily required placement procedures in WIC 319 and 361.4 are consistent.

AB 2216 (BASS). This bill, the Child Welfare Leadership and Performance Accountability Act of 2006, would:

- Create a Child Welfare Council to be co-chaired by a newly created Child Welfare and Foster Care Leader and the Supreme Court Chief Justice and on which would sit representatives from the many agencies, departments, judicial branch and stakeholder groups who are charged with serving children and families within the child welfare system to work collaboratively to address issues arising around child welfare and foster care and to advise on service delivery and outcomes;
- Create a Child Welfare and Foster Care Leader who would oversee child welfare and foster care programs, have the authority to coordinate the activities necessary to administer the necessary services, and provide a clear point of accountability;
- Codify the existing California Child and Family Service Review System outcome and performance measures developed pursuant to AB 636 and requiring the creation of child well-being measures as originally envisioned in AB 636 which would further underscore the importance of the existing process for tracking and maintaining outcome measures and move toward a performance system that recognizes success in a whole and healthy child; and
- Move the Foster Care Ombudsperson from under the Department of Social Services' jurisdiction to Health and Human Services Agency to eliminate a conflict of interest in which the ombudsperson is reviewing processes of the department in which he/she is currently housed and create additional independence and support for this position.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 22, 2006.

AB 2480 (EVANS). Existing law requires a child or counsel for a child, with the informed consent of the child if the child is found by a court to be of sufficient age and maturity to consent, to invoke the psychotherapist-client privilege, physician-patient privilege, and clergyman-penitent privilege. This bill would provide that the child shall be presumed to be of sufficient age and maturity to consent if the child is over 12 years of age.

Existing law requires the court to appoint counsel for a child in dependency proceedings at the trial level, unless the court finds that the child would not benefit from the appointment of counsel. This bill would require the court of appeal to appoint counsel for the child in subsequent appellate proceedings unless the court finds that the child would not benefit from the appointment of counsel. This bill would require the Judicial Council to implement this provision by promulgating a rule of court by January 1, 2008 and require the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature, information regarding caseload standards for counsel representing children before the juvenile court.

SUPPORT as amended on March 27, 2006.

AB 2488 (LENO). Existing law authorizes the State Department of Social Services or an adoption agency, as defined, that joined in an adoption petition to release the names and addresses of biological siblings to one another if both siblings have attained 21 years of age and have filed a specified request and waiver of rights with respect to the disclosure with the Department or agency.

This bill would lower that age of consent to 18 years of age, and would authorize an adoptee who is under 18 years of age to file that request with the consent of his or her adoptive parents. If an adoptee has not filed a waiver with the Department or adoption agency, the bill would also authorize a biological sibling to petition the court to appoint the Department or adoption agency as a confidential intermediary, which would have the authority to contact the adoptee and his or her adoptive parents with regard to disclosure, as appropriate.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 23, 2006.

AB 2489 (LENO). This bill provides for expansion of Foster Youth Services to all foster youth, creates Tuition/Fee Waivers at UCs and CSUs, creates Automatic CalGrant Eligibility, creates a state complement to the federal Chaffee Grant program, calls for the state to “front” Chafee grants until federal funds are received to allow earlier distribution of grants, creates housing preferences in college dorms with year-round housing, state incentives to expand Guardian Scholars-like programs.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 23, 2006.

AB 2495 (BASS). The CalWORKs Program, through the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) Program, provides aid on behalf of eligible children who are placed in the home of a relative caretaker and limits the application of the program to children who have been adjudged a dependent child of the juvenile court and whose dependency has been dismissed on or after January 1, 2000, concurrently or subsequent to the establishment of the kinship guardianship. The program is funded by state and county funding and available federal funding.

Current law establishes the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program, under which counties provide payments to foster care providers on behalf of qualified children in foster care. The program is funded by a combination of federal, state, and county funds, with money from the General Fund being continuously appropriated to pay for the state’s share of AFDC-FC costs. Rates paid on behalf of foster children in the AFDC-FC program may include approved amounts, paid with state participation, on behalf of an AFDC-FC child requiring specialized care, or for the provision of clothing for an AFDC-FC child.

This bill would augment the amount of an aid payment under Kin-GAP by amounts equal to the amount of a specialized care increment or clothing allowance to which the child would be entitled under the AFDC-FC program.

Current law requires the State Department of Social Services to develop statewide standards for the Independent Living Program for emancipated foster youth established pursuant to federal law. A child in receipt of Kin-GAP benefits is entitled to request and receive these independent living services.

This bill would require the county to provide information regarding the availability of ILP Program services to a child receiving Kin-GAP benefits, or his or her kinship guardian, when the child approaches his or her 16th birthday.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 23, 2006.

AB 2560 (RIDLEY-THOMAS). This bill would require the State Department of Health Services, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, to establish a Public School Health Center Program to perform specified functions relating to the establishment of public school health centers in California, in collaboration with the State Department of Education and the University of California, San Francisco. The bill would require the State Department of Health Services to enter into an interagency agreement with UC San Francisco's Institute for Health Policy Studies to establish standardized data collection procedures and the maintenance of a database of health information on public school health centers in California, and the tracking of health issues unique to school-aged youth, such as childhood obesity, asthma, immunizations, and child & adolescent mental health disorders. The bill would require the State Department of Health Services to convene and participate in a Public School Health Center Advisory Committee, composed of specified members, and would prescribe the functions and duties of the Committee. This bill would require the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the State Department of Health Services and UC San Francisco, to coordinate efforts to support public school health centers and to provide technical assistance to public school health centers. The bill would require Program staff to prepare and submit a biennial report to the Legislature, beginning on or before January 1, 2009.

SUPPORT as amended on March 28, 2006.

AB 2709 (MAZE). The personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law authorize various credits against the taxes imposed by those laws, including a hiring credit for qualified taxpayers who hire qualified employees, as defined, within enterprise zones, subject to specific criteria.

This bill would revise the definition of "qualified employee" for this purpose, to include "qualified former foster care recipient," as defined.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 24, 2006.

AB 2818 (MAZE). This bill would require the State Department of Health Services, in consultation with the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, to conduct a pilot program that would randomly select 12 health facilities to conduct random tests of mothers and their infants at birth to determine the prevalence of illegal narcotics use by expectant mothers, and to report the statistical results to the Legislature by January 1, 2007.

OPPOSE as introduced on February 24, 2006.

AB 2938 (RUNNER). The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act provides grants to those states that enact state laws that, among other requirements, allow public disclosure of information regarding cases of child abuse or neglect that result in a child fatality or near fatality. Existing state law requires county child welfare agencies to create a record in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) on all cases of child death suspected to be related to child abuse or neglect. The law also generally provides for the confidentiality of juvenile case files. However, state law requires the release to the public, under specified conditions, of juvenile case files that pertain to a deceased child who was a dependent child of the juvenile court.

This bill would instead required county child welfare agencies to create a record in CWS/CMS on all cases of child fatality or near fatality, as defined, suspected to be related to child abuse or neglect. The bill would expand the above provision requiring the release of juvenile case files in the case of a child death to additionally require the release of juvenile court records and both county and state case files, as specified, pertaining to a case of child abuse or neglect that resulted in a child fatality or near fatality. The bill would require that certain information be redacted.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 24, 2006, with the following recommendations:

- **The bill's current assignment of a clerk of the court to redact information that may interfere with a criminal investigation should be reconsidered so that clerks are not asked to perform a task they are not qualified to do.**
- **The bill must include language acknowledging that the requirement to record near fatalities in CWS/CMS cannot happen until CWS/CMS is revised.**
- **The definition of "near fatality" should conform more closely with federal CAPTA language, as follows "an act, as *verified* by a physician, that places the child in serious or critical condition."**
- **WIC 827 should be amended to allow those persons who are entitled to inspect records the ability to copy these records as well.**

AB 2976 (MOUNTJOY). This bill would create the Child Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, and Rape Reporting and Deterrence Act of 2006, which would require all licensed medical personnel, including physicians and surgeons, physicians assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists, and their ancillaries and assistants to report, within 24 hours of receiving the reportable information, to a law enforcement or child protective agency their knowledge or reasonable suspicion that a minor has contracted a sexually transmitted disease or is pregnant. The bill would also require a physician or surgeon who performed an abortion on a minor to collect sufficient tissue from the fetal remains to determine paternity. This bill would require the tissue and documentation regarding the chain of custody to be preserved for 4 years in case of use in a criminal proceeding.

OPPOSE as introduced on February 24, 2006. Committee expressed concern that the bill would prevent minors from seeking necessary medical treatment.

SB 1356 (LOWENTHAL). This law would establish the California Suicide Prevention Act of 2006, and would require, by May 1, 2008, the State Department of Mental Health, in consultation with specified state departments, to adopt and administer a statewide strategic suicide prevention plan developed by the Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network-California.

SUPPORT as amended on March 27, 2006 and recommend that “regional educational agencies” and “suicide death review teams” be included along with the State Department of Education as those identified to work with the State Department of Mental Health.

SB 1596 (RUNNER). Existing law provides for the implementation of a community-based system of perinatal care for eligible women and infants administered by the State Department of Health Services. This bill would establish the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, which would be administered and implemented by the Department, for purposes of making grants to eligible participating counties for the provision of voluntary registered nurse home visiting services for expectant first-time, low-income mothers, their children, and their families.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 24, 2006.

SB 1667 (KUEHL). Existing law authorizes the juvenile court to adjudge a minor who has been abused or neglected, or who meets other specified criteria, to be a dependent child of the court. Existing law requires a social worker or probation officer to give notice of review hearings relating to the adoption or legal guardianship of the minor to specified persons. Among others, the social worker or probation officer is required to give notice to the foster parents, Indian custodian, relative caregivers, community care facilitator or foster family agency having physical custody of the child, if a child is removed from the physical custody of the parents or legal guardian.

This bill would authorize any foster parent, Indian custodian, relative caregiver, community care facilitator, or foster family agency who is notified, as described above, to attend all hearings and to submit any information he or she deems relevant to the court in writing.

Existing law specifies the procedures for conducting hearings to determine the status of a dependent child of the juvenile court, including notice requirements and report filing deadlines. Existing law requires a social worker, in specific circumstances, to file a summary of his or her recommendations with the juvenile court at least 10 days prior to a status hearing, to file a summary of his or her recommendations for disposition to a child's foster parents, relative caregivers, or foster parents approved for adoption, if the child is removed from the physical custody of his or her parents prior to the hearing.

This bill would require a social worker to include with his or her summary of recommendations a copy of the Judicial Council Caregiver Information Form, in the caregiver's primary language when available, along with instructions on how to file the form with the court.

Existing law authorizes a foster parent, relative caregiver, or certified foster parent, as defined, prior to any hearing involving a child over whom he or she has custody, to file with the juvenile court a report containing his or her recommendation for disposition.

This bill would authorize a foster parent, relative caregiver, or certified foster parent, in the alternative, to use a Judicial Council Caregiver Form containing his or her recommendation.

SUPPORT as amended on March 29, 2006 and recommend that revised language regarding attendance at hearings be included in WIC Section 366.3 rather than Section 295 which covers noticing provisions for review hearings.

SB 1668 (BOWEN). Existing law permits counties to establish interagency child death review teams to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing suspicious child deaths and facilitating communication between persons who perform autopsies and the various persons and agencies involved in child abuse or neglect cases. The law allows interagency child death review teams to develop protocol for performing autopsies on children to assist coroners, as specified, and identifies the persons who may be consulted in developing the protocol.

This bill would provide that an oral or written communication or a document shared within or produced by a child death review team related to a child death review, provided by a third party to the child death review team, or between a third party and a child death review team is confidential and not subject to disclosure or discoverable by a third party. This bill would provide an exception to these rules of nondisclosure for recommendations of a child death review team at the discretion of a majority of the members of the team.

SUPPORT as introduced on February 24, 2006.