



## COUNTY OF SAN BENITO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

481 Fourth Street ♦ Hollister, CA 95023  
[www.cosb.us](http://www.cosb.us)

Phone: 831-636-4000 ♦ Fax: 831-636-4010  
[supervisors@cosb.us](mailto:supervisors@cosb.us)

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
State Capitol, Room 5150  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Mitchell and Assembly Member Thurmond:

San Benito County Board of Supervisors supports the Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children budget proposal. This program would increase access to early care education services for abused or neglected children across the State.

County child welfare agencies rely on the commitment of countless foster families to provide children with a safe and loving home during their times of crisis. Many willing foster parents have identified that the lack of access to child care services is a barrier to provide a home for a foster child. It is, therefore, in our interest to do everything we can to remove these barriers. In addition, we know that, for all the benefits that high quality child care has on children ages 0 to 5, the impact can be far more dramatic for children who have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect and removal from their homes.

The Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children would provide 1) an emergency child care voucher for up to six months for foster children and children of parenting foster youth ages of 0 through 3; 2) the foster family with enhanced support of child care navigators; and 3) professional development component in trauma-informed care, ensuring that child care providers have the training they need to care for the youngest of our abused and neglected children. The voucher would serve as a bridge, transitioning families to long-term, high quality early education programs.

San Benito County Board of Supervisors agrees that this is very important and strongly support this legislative effort. We are looking forward to working with you as you consider this important proposal and the support it will provide to our State's most vulnerable population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Rivas, Chair

cc: Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services  
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1 on Health and Human Services