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October 1, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 607 (Rodriguez) — Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our support for AB 607 (Rodriguez) and respectfully urge you to sign this bill. AB 607 will make statutory changes to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP) that will ensure that participants in a voluntary evidence-based home visiting program receive the full array of benefits by being able to participate through the HVP model's intended duration. The bill does not cost any additional money as participating counties retain their ability to limit participation in the program and existing law states that the services are not entitlement services. Rather, the bill clarifies the population eligible for the funding provided in the annual state budget process.

For too many California families, the enormous physical and emotional demands of parenting a young child are compounded by poverty, housing instability, and/or lack of social support during the early years of parenthood and childhood. Voluntary evidence-based home visiting programs (such as Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers and Early Head Start Home-Based Option) are backed by decades of research demonstrating that they improve outcomes for both parents and children. There are 24 nationally recognized home visiting models, of which at least six are in use in the CalWORKs HVP. When implemented with fidelity to their model standards, these programs can generate public savings by increasing healthy births,

boosting positive parenting practices, reducing child maltreatment, and increasing family self-sufficiency in the forms of adult educational attainment, career training and employment.

In Fall 2023, Children Now released a report, [A Statewide Approach to Strengthening Home Visiting](#), that elevated the discrepancy in program duration timeframes of the CalWORKs HVP versus the recommended enrollment and duration timeframes the evidence-based models are set up to serve, which creates a disconnect between model design and practice. In contrast, home visitors in the California Department of Public Health-funded programs serve families with children under five for the duration of the program model. While the primary aims of the two state-funded programs differ slightly, it is good practice to implement the programs as intended. This can lead to acquiring the full benefits of the home visiting programs, which are best achieved when participants are allowed to enroll and participate in alignment with model fidelity.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LP' or 'L Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Celeste Rodriguez, Assembly District 43
County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA)
Kern County Department of Human Services
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange