



Judicial Council of California

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August 28, 2023

Hon. Angelique Ashby
Member of the Senate, 8th District
1021 O Street, Suite 7320
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 91—Sponsor/Support

Dear Senator Ashby:

The Judicial Council is pleased to sponsor and support SCR 91 relating to Adoption and Permanency Month, which shall be November 2023.

The council has been partnering with the Legislature to recognize the importance of finding permanency for children in foster care since 1999, and this year is interested in focusing attention on the benefits of courts working with other child welfare stakeholders to place children who must be removed from their parents with relatives and extended family members.

As recognized in the resolution some 53,000 children in California continue to live apart from their families in child welfare—supervised out-of-home care, and over two-thirds are placed with relatives, but for the approximately 1,500 youth in probation supervised foster care placements that figure is only five percent.

The resolution notes that placements with relatives have shown tremendous benefits compared to placements with non-relatives, making it more likely that siblings are placed together and less likely that a child will reenter care or have multiple placements while in care. Courts are committed to working with their partners to continue these positive trends and improve placement stability and critical relationships for children removed from their parents.

In addition, the resolution notes that Black, Native American, and Latino children continue to be overrepresented in foster care relative to other children and highlights the need for system partners to tackle these disparities and emphasizes the unique leadership role of the juvenile court judge to provide active leadership within the community in determining the needs of children and of obtaining and developing resources to reduce the trauma of removal of children from their parents and relatives.

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Local courts and communities throughout California have created programs promoting permanency that have resulted in a reduction in the number of children waiting to live in safe, stable, and permanent homes. The Judicial Council and California's courts remain committed to working with your office, the Legislature as a whole, the Governor's office and local communities to provide children and families with access to fair, understandable judicial proceedings leading to timely, well-informed, and just permanency outcomes.

Recognizing November 2023 as Adoption and Permanency Month in California is an important way to recall where we have been, recognize where we are, and look to the future to create a safe California for all children.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council proudly sponsors and supports SCR 91.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Tracy Kenny
Supervising Attorney

TK/lmm

cc: Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Millicent Tidwell, Acting Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California
Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California