



The CalCASA Legislative Advocacy Committee is an opportunity for CalCASA to advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children during the state legislative process. Members of the committee review pending bills and determine whether to send a letter of support or of opposition. Thus far, the committee has requested that CalCASA send letters to support reforms pertaining to the following areas:

AB 2193: Would require the minimum caseload standards for child welfare caseworkers, recommended by the Child Welfare Services Stakeholders Group, to be phased in by the counties over a 5 -year period.

Action:

- Letter of Support sent endorsed by California CASA.
- Letter of Support Template sent to the CASA Network.

Status: AB 2193 has passed out of the Assembly and is now with the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is expected to make it to the Governor's desk for signature. CalCASA will send a new letter of support to the Governor and a letter of support template to the CASA Network.



AB 2284: Would require foster youth to receive annual preventive health assessments from providers approved for participation in the CHDP program or an equivalent provider approved by the county health department, and semiannual dental assessments from a California licensed dentist.

Action:

- Letter of Support sent endorsed by California CASA.
- Letter of Support Template sent to the CASA Network.

Status: AB 2284 has passed out of the Assembly and is now with the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is expected to make it to the Governor's desk for signature. CalCASA will send a new letter of support to the Governor and a letter of support template to the CASA Network.

AB 2489: Seeks to expand Foster Youth Services for all foster youth. This bill would establish a fee waiver for mandatory system wide fees or tuition at the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, for youth who resided in foster care at age 14 or older. Exempts foster youth accepted to a public post-secondary institution from submitting their grade point averages and financial eligibility in order to apply for Cal Grant A and B funds. This bill requires any public university that maintains year round student housing to provide priority to emancipated foster youth.

Action:

- Letter of Support sent endorsed by California CASA.
- Letter of Support Template sent to the CASA Network.



Continued...

Status: AB 2489 has passed out of the Assembly and is now with the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is expected to make it to the Governor's desk for signature. CalCASA will send a new letter of support to the Governor and a letter of support template to the CASA Network.

AB 2709: In recognition of the enormous barriers that foster youth must overcome to achieve self-sufficiency, this bill gives employers a financial incentive to hire former foster youth.

Action:

- Letter of Support sent endorsed by California CASA.
- Letter of Support Template sent to the CASA Network.

Status: The hearing was canceled at the request of the author. With the tax reforms happening, this bill may have to wait until next year.



SB 1289: Would allow a foster youth to continue to be eligible for foster care funding up to age 21 if the child was enrolled in a university program or community college, a full-time technical or vocational education program, or was employed on his or her 18th birthday. The bill also requires independent living programs to provide monthly individualized case management for youth 14 and older.

Action:

- Letter of Support sent endorsed by California CASA.
- Letter of Support Template sent to the CASA Network.

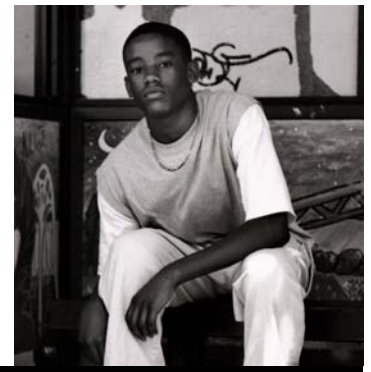
Status: SB 1289 is still in Suspense, it has not moved. The cost may be an issue.

SB 1576: Removes the county share of cost for transitional housing program to meet the needs of emancipated foster youth.

Action:

- Letter of Support sent endorsed by California CASA.
- Letter of Support Template sent to the CASA Network.

Status: SB 1576 has passed out of the Senate and is now with the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is expected to make it to the Governor's desk for signature. CalCASA will send a new letter of support to the Governor and a letter of support template to the CASA Network.



Please note that during the month of August, the Legislative Advocacy Committee will be sending out letters of support for each of the bills that were passed on to the Governor's desk. Local programs are encouraged to get involved in state-wide advocacy by reviewing each one of the foster care bills listed above and sending the appropriate letters in support or opposition.

These and other bills pending in the state legislature can be found online at www.leginfo.ca.gov click the Bill Information tab to search for a bill. Anyone who is interested in joining the CalCASA Legislative Advocacy Committee should contact: jbrown@californiacasa.org.

Speak up
for
a child.