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November 28, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
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Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care

The Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care conducted the first in a series of statewide hearings in Los Angeles on Monday, November 21, 2005. In addition to Karen Bass, committee chair, members present included: Rebecca Cohn; Noreen Evans; Dave Jones; Mark Leno; and Bill Maze. Assemblymember Bass outlined the goals of the Select Committee which are: to achieve better outcomes for children in Foster Care; support the Foster Care program; and centralize services.

The Select Committee heard testimony from panels consisting of former foster youth, relative caregivers, and representatives from the Pew Commission, the Urban Institute, the Child Welfare League of America, the California Department of Social Services, the Legislative Analyst's Office, the Little Hoover Commission, and the County Welfare Directors Association. Additional testimony was provided by Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Los Angeles Juvenile Court and David Sanders, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Recommendations to the Select Committee included: provide additional support for relative providers; address the impact of methamphetamine use in increased caseloads; provide foster youth with a permanent connection to at least one adult; realign services and invest savings from reduced placements into the program; provide support to expedite family reunification; extend services for

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emancipating foster youth beyond 18 years of age; and amend federal law to raise eligibility above income levels established in 1996. Upon completing the hearings, it is likely that the members of the Select Committee will introduce a package of legislation designed to improve and enhance the Foster Care Program and services for emancipating youth.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:VE:lm

cc: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Local 660
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
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