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AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

February 1, 2005

Senator Bob Dutton has recently introduced Senate Bill 116 (SB 116) to Eliminate the Sunset Clause in the Safe Arms For Newborns Law which is due to expire next year. The existing law provides that no parent can be prosecuted if he or she voluntarily surrenders the child to a hospital or any other designated location within 72 hours.

Los Angeles County has been at the forefront of implementing this 2000 law with 29 babies safely surrendered since its enactment. 2004 marked the first year since the bill's passage that more babies were surrendered then abandoned. This is an extraordinary accomplishment and it is one that should be achieved every year from this point forward.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT the Board of Supervisors support SB 116 and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send correspondence to the members of the Los Angeles County Delegation of State Senate Members and Governor Schwarzenegger urging support for the early passage and enactment of this legislation.

DK:AN

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MOTION

BURKE _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOLINA _____



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Yvonne-Lakers

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

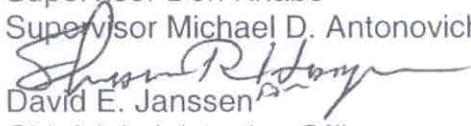
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

January 31, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT SB 116 (DUTTON) -- DELETION OF SAFE SURRENDER LAW SUNSET PROVISION (ITEM NO. 60-B, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 1, 2005)

Item No. 60-B on the February 1, 2005 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to support SB 116 (Dutton) and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send correspondence to the members of the Los Angeles County Delegation and Governor Schwarzenegger urging support for the early passage and enactment of this legislation. Under existing law, the Safe Surrender Law would sunset on January 1, 2006. As introduced on January 25, 2005, SB 116 would delete that sunset provision.

The Safe Surrender Law provides immunity from prosecution to a parent who surrenders custody of a child 72 hours old or younger to a hospital or other designated safe surrender site. In 2003, the County sponsored SB 139 (Brulte) to clarify and strengthen provisions of the Safe Surrender Law. SB 139 was signed into law by the Governor on July 31, 2003. In 2004, the County sponsored SB 1413 (Brulte and Scott) to provide immunity from liability to a person who assists in the safe surrender of an infant. The County also sought to delete or extend the sunset provision of the Safe Surrender Law. Because SB 1413, as signed into law on July 5, 2004, did not address the sunset provision, our Sacramento advocates have continued to pursue this goal and are currently discussing County-sponsorship of SB 116 with Senator Dutton's office.

SB 116 has not yet been assigned to a committee, and has no registered support or opposition.

The County's Safe Haven Task Force, Phase II, strongly supports the elimination of the Safe Surrender Law sunset provision in order to continue to provide for the safe surrender of infants as an alternative to abandonment. Support for SB 139 is consistent with County policy to support the Safe Surrender Law and to seek deletion or extension of the sunset provision.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services
District Attorney
Fire