



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**Correspondence Received**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

|          |           |              | The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item: |   |
|----------|-----------|--------------|--|---|
| Agenda # | Relate To | Position     | Name   | Comments  |
| 27.      |           | <b>Favor</b> | Abeli Gudino   | <p>My name is Abeli Gudino and I'm an Inclusion Specialist at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p> |



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| 27.  |           | <b>Favor</b> | Alejandra L Hernandez Flores | <p>My name is Alejandra Hernandez Flores and I am a Foster Care Social Worker and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis.</p> <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. The loss of FFAs would have devastating consequences for the children in care that are in need of stability. Without the support and resources provided by FFA's, thousands of children would face displacement with many left in unstable or temporary living situations. The loss of FFA's would severely limit children's chances of finding permanent, nurturing families. This will leave children to navigate an ill-equipped system to address their emotional and developmental needs. Additionally, the loss of FFA's would increase the likelihood of children being exposed to violence, poverty, and homelessness, further adding to the trauma they have already experienced. The long term impact could lead to challenges in their social and emotional well-being and may affect their ability to thrive in adulthood.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |





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| 27.      |           | Favor    | Amanda Cruse   | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
|          |           |          | Amber Rivas  |  |
|          |           |          | Amy Kay  | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children  |



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| 27.      |           | <b>Favor</b> | Amy Rea  | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children |



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| Agenda # | Relate To | Position     | Name   | Comments   |
| 27.      |           | <b>Favor</b> | Ana Campos   | <p>My name is Ana Campos and I am the Family Support Specialist at Extraordinary Families. I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Specifically, the families we work with go above and beyond to provide stability, love, and trauma-informed care to the children who join them. They support reunification and first family involvement to minimize loss and trauma, ensuring the needs of children are met across all areas. A loss of FFAs and the support we provide these children and families within this system would be detrimental to the overall stability and well-being of the children we serve. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long- term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |



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| 27.      |           | Favor    | Ana Lievano  | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
|          |           |          | Ana R Arias  |  |
|          |           |          | Andrea Bach  |  |



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| 27.      |           | Favor    | Anil Vadaparty   | <p>My name is Anil Vadaparty, and I am the President and CEO of McKinley. I am expressing my strong support for Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion addressing the urgent crisis surrounding Foster Family Agency (FFA) insurance.</p> <p>For nearly a century, FFAs like ours have been lifelines for children and families in Los Angeles County, serving nearly 1,900 vulnerable children who face some of the highest levels of need. These children deserve stable, loving environments where they can heal and thrive, and our agencies provide just that. We work closely with the Department of Children and Family Services to ensure safety, support families through difficult times, and help children find their way home, whether that's through reunification or adoption.</p> <p>The potential loss of FFAs threatens not just programs but the very futures of these children. Each child we serve carries their own story—stories marked by trauma, resilience, and hope. Without the specialized support that FFAs offer, many of these young lives could be upended, leading to greater instability.</p> <p>I ask the Board of Supervisors to take immediate action by exploring all possible solutions, including amending County contract language to enhance the procurement and affordability of insurance. It is essential to facilitate the creation of sustainable insurance options for FFAs and to establish a fund that provides immediate assistance for rising premiums.</p> <p>The clock is ticking, and we have a responsibility to act swiftly to protect the well-being of thousands of children. I ask that you leverage all available resources to identify and implement both short and long-term solutions that will ensure these vital services remain intact.</p> <p>Together, we can prevent the disruption of care and support the bright futures these children deserve.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
|          |           |          | Anisa S Khanmohamed  |   |





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| 27.      |           | Favor    | Ann Ramage   | Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
|          |           |          | Anna Rubin   |   |
|          |           |          | annette ermshar  | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.  |



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| 27.      |           | <b>Favor</b> | Anthony S Dela Cruz  | <p>My name is Anthony Dela Cruz and I am the Lead Adoption Social Worker at Extraordinary Families FFA.</p> <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. The loss of FFAs would loss much needed weekly oversight of the vulnerable children placed in resource homes. The loss of an FFA worker is also one less support that the resource parents and the youth can access when their assigned CSW isn't available. I've had so many resource parents speak to me about the importance of my role as an FFA SW when they couldn't get a hold of their CSW or they needed something further explained. CSW caseloads are simply too high and spread out to be able to give the child and resource family the much needed attention they deserve to best support them in their journey to stabilize and thrive.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |



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| 27.      |           | Favor    | Ariel Julian   | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
|          |           |          | Arne Rausch  | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |



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| 27.  |           | Favor    | Barnaby Murff | <p>I am the CEO of the Foster Family Agency (FFA) Extraordinary Families, which has been supporting children in LA County for over 30 years. Our work – and the work of our sister FFAs - is a vital component of the child welfare system, and critically important to the wellbeing of children across the county. For nearly a hundred years, FFAs like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad robust and lifechanging ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families on a deep level and leverage that to support children so they can thrive. The breadth and depth of our services cannot be replicated or absorbed by DCFS. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and re-traumatization for thousands of children and families. The unique relationship with families and children that FFAs build allows us to provide a level of care simply unattainable by the County agencies, despite best efforts. The loss of FFAs would be devastating to the sector.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found to preserve FFAs. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of critical services for thousands of children.</p> |



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| 27.      |           | Favor    | Becca Doten  | Since 2019, I have been the foster parent to three children, two of whom I adopted and one of whom was reunified with her parents. I chose to open my home and my heart, knowing that there was a dire need in LA County for foster families. I could not have taken this journey without my FFA and its staff, who were there with me every step of the way through the process, providing support and resources for me and my foster children, including helping me navigate maintaining a relationship with my foster daughter and her family when she reunified with them, as well as supporting my foster (now adopted) son, Lucas, through connecting us with speech therapy classes. It saddens me greatly to think that FFAs like Extraordinary Family could lose their insurance, and in turn have to shut down. They are the support system that new foster parents and resource families need to ensure they have what they need to provide the support, love and help that their foster children need. Please explore and advocate for all solutions to this crisis, so that FFAs can remain insured and continue to support families like mine. Thank you. |
|          |           |          | Ben Chou   | I chose to become a resource parent because I wanted to provide a loving and stable home for children in need. Working with my FFA has allowed me to open my family and home as a safe, caring setting for kids who need it most. Meeting the needs of the children in my care requires additional help and guidance. For me, that has come in the form of the social workers and staff of Extraordinary Families, who are available 24/7 to support my family through the big and small challenges that arise, such as providing guidance and support as we reunify children with their first families. I am deeply troubled by the possibility of losing agencies like Extraordinary Families. I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and continue to support families like mine. Thank you for your consideration.  |
|          |           |          | Benito Pasia-Garcia  | I chose to become a resource parent because<br>briefly explain why you chose to become a<br>resource<br>parent<br>. Working with my FFA has allowed me to open my<br>family<br>and home<br>as a safe,<br>caring setting<br>for<br>kids who need it most<br>.<br>M<br>eeting th<br>e needs of the children<br>in my care   |



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requires  
additional  
help  
and  
guidance  
. For me, that has come in the form of the  
social workers and staff  
of  
your  
FFA's name  
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who  
are  
available  
24/7  
to  
support  
my family  
through the  
big and small  
challenges that arise  
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possible, add  
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of support provided by your FFA  
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agencies like  
your FFA  
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. I am  
asking that  
you explore  
and  
advocate for  
all solutions  
so that FFAs can remain insured  
and  
allow FFAs to  
continue to support  
families like mine.



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| Beverly Villatoro | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Bonnie D Sharpe   | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) support 1 in 4 children and youth who are separated from their families due to abuse or neglect and enter the foster care system in California, totaling 8,600 youth. FFAs in L.A. County alone serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need, including providing nearly 100% of Intensive Services Foster Care. Our work is necessary and critical to make the state's vision for home-based foster care a reality.</p> <p>FFAs further play a critical role in family reunification. Our social workers are often in constant contact with and are the biggest advocates for the families involved in child welfare, helping them to understand and navigate this daunting system. Our resource/foster parents, in turn, serve as natural mentors for them, guiding and helping them to overcome challenges and to be better parents. Many of our resource parents have daily communication with the families, maintaining, reinforcing, and supporting their connection to their children. Our resource parents are carefully recruited, trained, and equipped with the trauma-informed skills necessary to provide this level of empathetic support.</p> <p>Our resource parents and staff also support, facilitate, and supervise family time – the time children spend with their families. And family time is supported by research as a significant, if not the greatest predictor of family reunification. Quality family time is also one of the greatest predictors of maintaining stability for children in care, and, in some cases, preventing re-entry into care. Our resource parents and staff provide this quality family time – and in many cases, when children are reunified, our families continue to be a source of support for children and their families, serving as extended family members – even godparents – and helping with things like ongoing childcare – continuing to support the stabilization of the child within the home and helping to prevent them from reentering foster care again.</p> <p>We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when</p> |



# **PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

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HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

## **Correspondence Received**

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|                  | <p>not. However, FFAs provide a level of support the counties simply can't provide – we provide 24/7 support, and we are there for children in need when no one else can. We were recently alerted about a newborn in the NICU with significant exposure to drugs in utero. We found a family for this baby, and that family and one of our social workers went straight to the hospital to be with the baby because literally no one else could at that moment, and they went to the hospital every day to be there with the baby – to make sure the baby was not alone in that critical time.</p> <p>To be clear, FFAs have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Add specific examples to humanize/explain what a loss of FFAs means to the system.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for county-contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Brenda C Vasquez | <p>My name is Brenda Vasquez and I'm a Child Development Specialist at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>  |
| Brooke Halsband  | <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in a myriad of ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption</p>  |





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|  |              | <p>when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. As an adoptee (many years ago) and a longstanding and active Board Member of Extraordinary Families, I am honored to be involved with them, support them, and all FFA's like them, because they do things at the highest level, with integrity, and absolute care for the children. For us, keeping children safe, not just physically, but mentally and emotionally is of vital importance. Please take note of this crucial aspect, for the children and vote in favor.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. Thank you kindly for your time. Looking forward to a positive resolution. Best.</p> |
|  | Carlos Arias | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
|  | Carly P Loth | <p>We decided to become resource parents because we were unable to conceive. I am adopted and I always felt that there were children meant to be a part of our family. Working with my FFA has allowed us to open our family and home as a safe, caring environment for kids who need it the most. Meeting the needs of the children in our care requires additional help and guidance. For us, that support has come in the form of the social workers and staff at Extraordinary Families (EF), who are available 24/7 to assist our family with the challenges that arise, big and small. EF worked tirelessly through the foster-to-adoption process for all three of our boys. Two of our boys are half-siblings, and with EF's help, we were able to keep them together long-term.</p>  |



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|                 | <p>We are deeply concerned about the possibility of losing agencies like EF. I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and continue to support families and children like mine.</p>  |
| Carol C Ramirez | <p>My name is Carol Ramirez ,and I am the VP and Chief Program Officer at Wayfinder Family Services and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies(FFAs)like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways, being available 24/7 to ensure timely response and access whenever our families need us. Today FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital trauma informed services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families, which will be a greater human and fiscal cost. FFA's are nimble and responsive to unique needs of families and children and provide in home support and services. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Carolyn Calvert | <p>I beg you to address this insurance crisis emergency that is looming and would no doubt, if unaddressed, lead to the closure of foster care agencies and negatively impact children who desperately need these services the most.</p>   |
| Carrie Fuller   | <p>I chose to become a foster parent because I believe strongly that every child deserves a loving and stable home, especially during a crisis or other challenging time in their family's life. Working with an FFA has allowed me to open my family and home as a safe, caring setting to children who need it most. Meeting the needs of children in my care necessitates extra support and guidance. For me this has come in the form of the social workers and staff at Extraordinary Families (now Allies for Every Child), who are available 24/7 for the big and small challenges that arise. For example, when our baby was in the hospital, the social workers at our FFA checked in daily and offered us support on advocating for our child's medical needs. I'm deeply troubled by the possibility of losing agencies like Allies for Every Child and their Extraordinary Families program. I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and allow FFAs to</p>   |



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|                    | support families like mine.  |
| CATHERINE MARTINEZ | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>We Need Help on this!<br/>Thank you!</p>  |
| Cesar Gomez        |  |
| Chanel Boutakidis  | <p>Five Acres is the oldest child welfare organization Southern California. For 136 years, we have served the children and families of Los Angeles County. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible, and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. We have a low caseload that allows us to really be present for every child to help them find their forever family.</p> <p>At Five Acres our FFA has a permanency rate of 86% compared to the county and state 33% permanency rate. That is an apples-to-apples comparison of client impact between what an FFA can offer versus an already overwhelmed county system. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption, trauma, and the loss of permanency for thousands of children and families.</p> <p>On September 4th we held a Client Panel Presentation at the Huntington Library and Gardens with over 100 constituents in attendance. We spoke about the needs of foster children and our amazing foster/adopt families who open their homes to give them the love and support until they are adopted or reunified. While there are many details, just know that we have been advocating our hearts off as a collaborate across the state and in partnership with county departments. In the end, we as agencies that have helped foster children to find forever safe and loving family for over a century now find</p> |



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|                   | ourselves stuck in the middle between state regulations and insurance with all that we do at risk. We need your support.   |
| Chantal Bennett   | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Charito Guerrero  |  |
| Charles P Loth    | <p>We decided to become resource parents because we were unable to conceive. We always felt that there were children meant to be a part of our family. Working with our FFA has allowed us to open our family and home as a safe, caring environment for kids who need it the most. Meeting the needs of the children in our care requires additional help and guidance. For us, that support has come in the form of the social workers and staff at Extraordinary Families (EF), who are available 24/7 to assist our family with the challenges that arise, big and small. EF worked tirelessly through the foster-to-adoption process for all three of our boys. Two of our boys are half-siblings, and with EF's help, we were able to keep them together long-term.</p> <p>We are deeply concerned about the possibility of losing agencies like EF. I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and continue to support families and children like mine.</p>  |
| Christina Hedrick | <p>My name is Christina Hedrick, and I am the Quality Assurance Specialist for FFA Extraordinary Families, soon to be merging with Allies for Every Child. I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound</p>   |



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|                 | <p>understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Christine Selak | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Cindy Cole      | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |



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Cristian Palao

"For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. The support provided by FFA's resource families is invaluable to the lives of the children in need of that support from a family.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for county-contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children."

Cruz Orona

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services BOS Motion on FFA Ins Crisis-Public Comment through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. It unthinkable of what will happen if the FFA's system is lost. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the





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|                   | underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children  |
| Cynthia Lippstreu |   |
| Dana Pehrson      | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Daniela Franco    | <p>My name is Daniela Franco and I'm the Early Education Administrative &amp; Family Engagement Manager at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>  |
| Darlene Dorough   | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced  |



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|                 | <p>FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Dawn Vo-Jutabha | <p>Wayfinder Family Services is one of California's largest foster care and adoption agencies, providing services in Southern and Northern California to over 500 children and youth annually. Our foster care program also supports and services kinship resource parents and their relative children placed in their care. Today, FFA in L.A. County serves nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We have a unique and profound understanding of working with families and utilize our expertise to provide vital services. Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for county-contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that allows organizations with increased premiums in the short-term. In contrast, sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to prevent placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Debbie S Galo   | <p>My name is Debbie Galo and I'm the Nutrition Specialist at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in</p>   |





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|                   | providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.  |
| Deborah Kroman    | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Debra Heppe       | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Deenise Villagran | "For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-   |



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|                    | <p>quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. It would be detrimental if FFA at its entirety be removed from children who are in dire need of support from all resources such as medical, dental, mental health, and most of all love.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children."</p>   |
| Eduardo Gutierrez  | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Eligio Garcia      | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Elizabeth Oseguera | <p>On behalf of the California Alliance of Child and Family Services (the CA Alliance), and the over 160 nonprofit community-based organizations it</p>   |



# **PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

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represents, we proudly support the Foster Family Agency Insurance Crisis Analysis recommendation by Supervisor Barger and ask for your vote.

FFAs play a crucial role in helping the Administration achieve its goals to reform the child welfare system. Counties rely on FFAs to help support the needs of foster children because FFAs specialize in serving medically fragile children, LGBTQ+ youth, older foster youth and children with higher needs. FFAs are trained to care for youth who have experienced abuse, exploitation, poverty, and racism and can offer services that counties do not have the capacity to provide.

There are nearly 45,000 children and youth in the California foster care system, the vast majority of whom have been separated from their parents due to neglect or abuse. Today, approximately 9,700 of those children are placed under the care of FFAs, which is nearly 1 in 5 foster youth. Within LA County, FFAs serve nearly 1,900 foster children, some of which are systems-involved youth.

However, FFAs must be insured to be contracted to accept children and youth into their foster homes. A single insurance company, Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California (NIAC) currently covers about 90% of all the FFAs in California. In June of this year, NIAC made the shocking announcement that it will be sending out nonrenewal notices for coverages for all FFAs in the state of California. This is forcing most FFAs to find alternative insurance if it can be found, and if the FFA can afford the potential increased costs of a different insurance policy. These increased costs are not covered by the rates paid to FFAs, resulting in some FFAs making the difficult decision to close.

### **Overview of FFAs Role within the County Welfare System:**

FFAs work in partnership with counties to help serve the foster youth and help find them a safe and permanent home. FFAs support family reunification efforts, which aim to safely return children in foster care to their biological families whenever possible and appropriate. This means FFAs work closely with birth families and offer parenting classes, substance abuse counseling, mental health services, and other resources designed to help parents or relatives create a safe and stable home environment. FFAs also assist with transporting and supervising visits between foster children and their relatives, which could be a few hours away.

When reunification is not possible, FFAs work to recruit foster parents and help them get certified to host foster children. FFAs also help to train foster families, and cover training expenses, so these families can properly support



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high-risk placements and ensure foster parents are well-prepared to handle the complexities of fostering. FFAs provide 24/7 on-call assistance and help connect foster parents to social workers in moments of crisis, many times helping the family stabilize so they can continue offering foster children a safe home.

LA County does not have the necessary resources nor staff capacity to provide the level of services that FFAs can. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County would result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. These foster children will likely be displaced and uprooted from their communities, schools and homes, leading many of them to lose their support system.

For foster children, being uprooted after finally settling into a family home is a devastating setback. It means starting from scratch in another new home, starting over with therapists and support specialists, and even having to start a new school mid-year. Worse, it means losing the sense of stability. Multiple research studies show that the loss of a social worker alone can significantly disrupt the permanency process and severs yet another bond in a foster child's life: with each loss of a social worker, the rate of achieving permanency for a foster youth drops dramatically from 74.5% with one social worker to less than 3% with three or more social workers. FFAs help to create consistency in the lives of foster children.

If FFAs close, this will mean that foster children could end up staying in unlicensed settings such as welcome centers, offices, and hotel rooms, and possibly ending up homeless.

**Action Needed to Prevent Displacing Foster Children:**

This crisis will not only impact the provision of FFAs that place children and youth with foster families, but also impact adoptions of children in foster care. FFAs who are dually licensed as adoption agencies are often contracted by counties to help children be adopted through foster care. In 2024, 30% of foster youth (6,505) were adopted out of foster care statewide, thanks in part to FFAs. We ask that LA County work with the Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA) to develop solutions that help FFAs remain open, such as creating a pool of funds to help FFAs offset the higher insurance premiums and build a risk pool to avoid a future insurance crisis.

Should you require any additional information or documentation to process this change, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Oseguera at [eoseguera@cacfs.org](mailto:eoseguera@cacfs.org).

Elliana Akiyoshi

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways.



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|  |               | <p>Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.</p> <p>Imagine a sibling group of three—ages 4, 7, and 10—who are currently placed together in a loving foster home through an FFA. Keeping siblings together is a critical factor in reducing trauma and promoting stability for children in foster care. Without experienced FFAs who specialize in managing sibling placements, these children could be separated, each placed in different homes across the county, compounding the trauma they've already endured. The loss of FFAs would make it even more challenging to find homes that can care for multiple siblings, leading to increased emotional distress for the children and more complicated reunification efforts for their biological family.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
|  | erica adler   | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
|  | Erica Vorfeld | <p>My name is Erica Vorfeld and I'm the Director of Early Care and Education at Allies for Every Child. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child</p>   |



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|                         | <p>welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>   |
| Erika Martinez Sandoval | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children</p>  |
| Erika Vasquez-Meza      | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Eva Miranda             | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a</p>  |





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| Eva M Terrazas      |   |
| Francis D McDougall | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> |
| Francisco Corrales  | <p>It's necessary for us as a society to have an agency To help us with this children there in danger. It is part Is a moral and To help these kids and children.</p>   |
| Gabriela Castro     | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for</p>  |



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|                          | thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.  |
| Genesis Medina           | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children |
| George Reyes             |   |
| Gerardo Bozikovic Jr     | <p>FFA's like NALCS have served the most vulnerable populations such as foster children and families of Los Angeles County for many years. Currently FFAs in L.A. County serve approximately 1,900 children, who could soon have to leave the foster homes that many of them have come to love, grow in and feel a part of due to the foster family agency insurance crisis. This will negatively impact our foster children and youth, who have already experienced great levels of trauma and which only a few are starting to heal from. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in the disruption of thousands of children and families and could place great strain on our DCFS partners and the system as a whole.</p> <p>I humbly ask that you use whatever resources and means you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children who are in desperate need of assistance.</p>  |
| Guillermo Aguilar Robles | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced  |





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|                  | <p>FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
|                  | <p>Thank you!</p>  |
| Heather Carrigan | <p>Allies for Every Child has served youth in foster care for nearly 40 years, since our start as a foster care agency in 1987. While our work has evolved over time to also emphasize a host of strategies designed to prevent child welfare system involvement, we know that there's still a vital need for foster and adoptive parents to care for kids who aren't safe at home. Thanks to our unique approach, our foster family agency (FFA) has a single-placement permanency rate of 93% compared to the County and State permanency rates of 33%.</p> <p>We carefully recruit, train, and support loving foster and adoptive parents who understand the needs of children in the foster care system and share our commitment to ensuring every child has the childhood they deserve. We intentionally seek culturally affirming families, families of color and LGBTQ+ families who reflect the diversity of the children and youth who are overrepresented in foster care; we also find families who are committed to keeping siblings together and parenting older youth.</p> <p>Allies' unique multidisciplinary expertise and programs enable us to support foster youth and families in ways that the County simply cannot. Our staff includes licensed clinical professionals (pediatric occupational therapists, early childhood mental health therapists, nutritionists, public health nurses, etc.) who understand the traumatic impacts of childhood instability and being moved from home to home. Allies provides therapeutic support groups to children and families (directly with Allies clinicians and through our partnership with UCLA TIES for Families), educational advocacy, healthcare access, regional center services advocacy, and high-quality early education. Through our community partnerships with other organizations, we connect children and families to additional resources that support them with food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc.</p> <p>LA's foster care system is the largest in the country—the loss of FFAs would directly increase the already unacceptable levels of instability and trauma faced by children and youth in this system. We know that children and youth who linger in foster care without the support, consistency, and unwavering commitment of a family face unacceptable odds and an incredibly high risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Thank you, Supervisor Barger and Supervisor Horvath, for introducing this</p> |



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|                       |  |
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|                       | motion urging the County to explore all possible solutions to this crisis. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to urgently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to prevent thousands of children from the threat of losing the reliable, high-quality professional support they depend on and from being separated from yet another home.  |
| Helen Cho             | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Isabel Rodriguez      |  |
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| Isabel Valdez Burbano | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Jackie Jakob          |  |
| Jackie Takarabe       | Please save FFAs. Without them, thousands of children and families will be ripped apart and further traumatize.  |
| Jacqueline R McGill   | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a  |



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| Jaime N Valladares | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Jame Merritt       | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children</p>  |
| James M Schrage    |   |
| JaNean Palacios    | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model</p>  |



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|                 | <p>of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Janeth Marquez  | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> |
| Janette Soriano | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> |



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| Jason Shea   | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>  |
| Jay Allen    | <p>My name is Jay Allen, President &amp; Chief Executive Officer of Wayfinder Family Services. I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for County solutions and state-level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For roughly one hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in countless ways.</p> <p>Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve approximately 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, alleviate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible, and permanency through adoption when not. We have a uniquely profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not positioned to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the country could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending county contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for county-contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I respectfully request that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Jay Shindell | <p>I chose to become a resource parent because I wanted to be able to provide a home for children in need. Working with my FFA has allowed me to open</p>  |



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|                  | <p>my family and home as a safe, caring setting for kids who need it most. Meeting the needs of the children in my care requires additional help and guidance. For me, that has come in the form of the social workers and staff of Extraordinary Families, who are available 24/7 to support my family through the big and small challenges that arise. Our FFA provides me with the support I need to be a resource parent, and without them I would not have been able to care for the children that I have been lucky enough to have in my home.</p> <p>I am deeply troubled by the possibility of losing agencies like Extraordinary Families. I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and allow FFAs to continue to support families like mine. Thank you.</p>  |
| Jazmine Martin   | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Jeffrey R McGraa | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Jennifer Berger  | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of</p>  |





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| Jennifer Norman | <p>My name is Jennifer Norman and I'm a Teacher Assistant at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>  |
| Jenny Lin       | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Jeremy Svenson  | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model</p>  |



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| Jessica Malone      | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Jessica Ramirez     | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Jill Mattinson-Cruz |   |
| Jill Rosenberg      | <p>My name is Jill Rosenberg and I am the Adoption Supervisor at Extraordinary Families, soon to be merging with Allies for Every Child, and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state-level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis</p>   |





# **PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

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For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.

In particular, our families serve the most vulnerable population of children, the little ones, age 0-5 years old. These years are crucial for brain development, and developing an attachment to a loving, attentive, and caring primary caregiver is extremely important. Our highly trained and skilled families selflessly parent these infants and toddlers as if they were their own birth children while supporting family reunification and building relationships with the child's family of origin to minimize loss and trauma. Often our foster parents become like extended family members and offer ongoing support to the family to enable success down the road.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.

Jodi Kurata

On behalf of the Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA), whose membership includes 87 non-profit organizations serving individuals and communities throughout Los Angeles County, I am writing in strong support of this motion.

Thank you, Supervisor Barger and Supervisor Horvath, for your bold action to call for solutions and state level advocacy to address the Foster Family Agency insurance crisis, and thank you to the entire Board of Supervisors for your commitment and track record of supporting children and families.

Foster Family Agencies are a critical component of the continuum of care for children in the child welfare system. In addition to recruiting, training, and approving resource parents, FFAs provide 24/7 support to resource families. They make sure that children are safe in resource family homes and partner with birth and resource families, children, and DCFS to navigate complex



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|  |                  | <p>service systems. FFAs facilitate reunification, including supporting family visitation and birth parent-resource parent relationships, and, as dually licensed adoption agencies, achieve permanency for children who cannot reunify. DCFS on its own is simply not equipped to support resource parents in this same holistic way.</p> <p>FFA resource families care for approximately 1,900 children in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs in L.A. County, due to a loss of insurance, would result in disruption and trauma to thousands of children and families. Neither DCFS nor a subset of remaining FFAs would have the infrastructure and capacity to fully absorb the resource parents who would be left without FFAs.</p> <p>Our appeal is to the county and state to explore all solutions, including but not limited to amending County contract language to support the procurement and affordability of alternate insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for contracted FFAs, and sponsoring a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term. Today, our focus is on finding a way to save Foster Family Agencies for thousands of children in L.A. County. Looking into the future, it is critical to recognize the serious underlying insurability problems that must be addressed by the state to maintain FFAs and other community-based programs for children, families, and communities.</p> <p>We express gratitude to the Board of Supervisors for acknowledging this problem and stepping up to be part of the solutions.</p> |
|  | John M Lowenthal | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
|  | Juan Perez       | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children</p>  |



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|                        | <p>served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>  |
| Judith Sandino         |  |
| Julie Weinstein        | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Karriann Farrell Hinds | <p>My name is Karriann Farrell Hinds, and I am the Chief Strategy Officer at Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If possible, add specific examples to humanize/explain what a loss of FFAs means to the system. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County</p> |



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|                  | <p>contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Katelyn Corona   | <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Add specific examples to humanize/explain what a loss of FFAs means to the system.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Katherine Dunham | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Kayin Ho-Ng      | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of</p>  |



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|                   | <p>Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Keri R Fitzgerald | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Kimble Bullard    | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| kira cook         | <p>I chose to become a resource parent because I wanted to give a home to</p>   |



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|  |                | <p>children in need.<br/>Working with my FFA has allowed me to open my family and home as a safe, caring setting for kids who need it most. Meeting the needs of the children in my care requires additional help and guidance . For me, that has come in the form of the social workers and staff of Extraordinary Families, who are available 24/7 to support my family through the big and small challenges that arise. They attended court hearings with me and helped make the world of resource parenting smooth and comprehensible in a very complex and troubling system.</p> <p>.<br/>I am deeply troubled by the possibility of losing my agency like Extraordinary Families.I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and allow FFAs to continue to support families like mine</p> |
|  | Kirsten Hansen | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of   |



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|                    |   |
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|                    | <p>system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Kristyn Barney     | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Laura Cervantes    | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Laura J De La Cruz | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of</p>  |





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| Lauren Dottore      | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>          |
| Lawren Miller Askew | <p>My name is Lawren Miller Askew, MSN, PHN, RN and I'm a CA licensed Public Health Nurse Health serving in Services Coordinator roleat Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve infants / children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to not only to unmet health needs but also to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house multidisciplinary expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p> |



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| Lilia Pule     | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Lisa Perez     | <p>My name is Lisa Perez and I'm a Early Education Center Coordinator at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>   |
| Lizette Hooker | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |



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Lorena Bernal

My name is Lorena Bernal, and I am the Family Resource Center Program Manager at Extraordinary Families FFA and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis.

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.

A loss of FFAs would greatly impact the direct work in helping children and families. For example, I have seen first-hand how different families, who were all connected through the FFA and whose connection was fostered by the FFA, built an extended family through providing a forever home to multiple siblings who needed permanency through adoption. The FFA played an integral role in joining children with the families, ensuring their needs were met, and working with all the families for the siblings' connection.

I have also witnessed first-hand how FFA staff time and time again have promoted relationships between resource families and first families. With the FFA connecting and facilitating opportunities for connections, these families have been able to stay in contact post reunification. First families have formed such close relationships, that they have invited resource families to program graduations or even have spent holidays together. FFA staff bridged those connections by guiding each family in communicating. In the end, these families and children were much stronger for it.

In my role as the Family Resource Program Manager, our team has been able to fill in the gaps in services in the child welfare system by providing individual support to families in need. This includes linking to services, providing a parenting program, empowering families to advocate for themselves, and creating an individualized plan to support families in meeting their goals for attention. Our program as part of the FFA is able to provide that kind of individual care and support that is not always possible through County.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you



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|                  | have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.   |
| Lorin Ruttenberg |   |
| Lucy M Hartford  | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.  |
| Luis Tlalacalco  | My name is Luis Tlalacalco, and I am the Human Resources & Operation Specialist at Extraordinary Families FFA, and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. FFAs have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. For example, our specialized training programs for foster parents equip them to handle the unique challenges faced by children with trauma histories, something that county services might not be able to offer. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Imagine children being placed in less specialized care, potentially facing multiple placements and further instability. Thousands of foster youth are at risk of losing services and support. This kind of disruption could leave thousands on the streets. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending |



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|                 | <p>County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Madalena Cooper | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Madysyn Groden  | <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have been a vital resource for children and families in Los Angeles County. Currently, FFAs serve nearly 1,900 children, delivering high-quality, supportive services to those with the highest levels of need.</p> <p>Our collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services is essential in keeping children safe, mitigating the effects of system involvement, and facilitating reunification whenever possible. When reunification isn't feasible, we strive for permanency through adoption. Our unique expertise in working with families allows us to offer services that the County is not positioned to replicate.</p> <p>The potential loss of experienced FFAs could disrupt the lives of thousands of children and families. For instance, consider a child who has already experienced instability; losing access to a trusted FFA could result in further trauma and hinder their ability to form lasting connections. This loss affects not only the child but also the entire family unit, leading to greater challenges in achieving stability and success.</p> <p>I urge you to explore all possible solutions, including amending County contract language to support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies for FFAs. Additionally, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County-contracted FFAs and establishing a fund to assist organizations facing increased premiums in the short term would be invaluable. We need your commitment to swiftly identify and implement both short- and</p> |



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|               | long-term solutions to prevent placement disruptions and the irreversible loss of services for thousands of vulnerable children in our community.  |
| malisa day    |  |
| Mannya Sharma | <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.</p> <p>1. Loss of a Child's Connection to Their Roots: Imagine a child who is removed from their home and placed in foster care. Without FFAs, the system may struggle to identify and reach out to extended family members who could provide a loving and familiar environment. For this child, not knowing their grandparents, aunts, or cousins could mean feeling more isolated and disconnected, losing their cultural identity and sense of belonging.</p> <p>2. Missed Opportunities for Family Reunification: For a teenager who has been in foster care for several years, FFAs might help locate a long-lost sibling or family friend who could take them in. Without this service, the child may spend the remainder of their teenage years in a group home or with foster families, missing out on the possibility of reconnecting with their family and building long-term relationships. This can leave them feeling abandoned and unsupported during a critical time in their development.</p> <p>3. Emotional Toll on Children: Consider a young child placed in foster care after their parent's rights were terminated. Without FFAs, the child may be placed with strangers, missing the comfort and safety of familiar faces. A relative who could have provided stability may never be contacted, resulting in prolonged feelings of grief, confusion, and instability for the child.</p> <p>4. Delay in Permanency: A child could be in foster care for years, bouncing between placements, while a suitable relative who lives a few states away is unaware of the situation. FFAs would ensure a diligent search for this relative, offering the child a quicker path to a permanent, stable home. Without FFA, the child faces prolonged uncertainty and instability, leading to potential developmental and emotional harm.</p> <p>5. Reduced Support Networks for Aging-Out Youth: A young adult aging out of foster care without FFAs may lack any meaningful connection to family, leaving them vulnerable to homelessness, unemployment, or mental health challenges. FFAs could have connected them to a mentor or relative who might help guide them through the transition into adulthood, offering support with education, housing, or job opportunities.</p> <p>6. Impact on the Community: When children grow up without the connection and support of extended family, the entire community may feel the ripple</p> |





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|                             | <p>effects. For example, children without strong family ties may be more likely to struggle with school, mental health, or law enforcement interactions, which could have been mitigated by having a stable, familiar home environment through the assistance of FFAs.</p> <p>The loss of FFAs essentially means a loss of connection, safety, and permanency for children in the system, leaving them with fewer chances for a stable family life and emotional security.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>                                       |
| MARIA MONTES DE OCA         | <p>I am deeply troubled by the possibility of losing agencies like Nuevo Amanecer Latino Children's Services. I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and allow FFAs to continue to support families.</p>   |
| Maria C Aguilar             | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> |
| Maria Del Rosario Gutierrez | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children</p>  |





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|                  | <p>served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Maricsa Gomez    | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Mariella Cordero | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Mario Marquez    | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced</p>   |



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|                      | <p>FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
|                      | <p>Thank you!</p>  |
| <p>Mario Marquez</p> | <p>Grand Canyon University<br/>Ad<br/>Online Degree Programs: Private. Christian. Affordable.<br/>Experience the flexibility and affordability of GCU's online degree programs.<br/>We need your help!</p> <p>Charito Guerrero<br/>To<br/>4:22 PM</p> <p>Sep 20 at 4:22 PM<br/>Good afternoon everyone. If you have some time, please help us advocate!<br/>You can all support us with the FFA insurance issue across the county. It will take just a second of your time.</p> <p>Follow the quick and easy steps below:</p> <p>Open this link: Board of Supervisors Public Comment webpage<br/>Just add your name<br/>Click box #27 Foster Family Agency Insurance Crisis Analysis<br/>Click the button "In Favor"<br/>Copy and Paste the following comment into the box:<br/>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will</p> |



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|                   | <p>not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>   |
| Marisol Gamez     | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Marisol Mayeshiro | <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. All of our Resource Parents are always taking trainings and are in communication with the Resource Family Social Worker to ensure that they are providing a good home and safe environment for the children in Foster care. Resource Family social Workers are available for Foster parents 24/7; Resource Family Social workers visit the families 1-3 times a week. Resource Family Social Workers provide weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports that are provided to CSW. In these reports RFSW provide details on how the Foster child is doing, strengths, and areas in which support is needed.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased</p> |



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|                   | <p>premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children</p>  |
| Mark G Zipoli     | <p>Loss of FFA services and support means 9,700 lives are at risk; foster youth will be out on the street; porting foster children and youth from FFA homes to the County system is a long and disruptive process. These individuals will be uprooted from their families, schools, and communities. They will most likely have to switch medical care providers.</p>   |
| Marta Valle       | <p>Our agency supports the work of DCFS in keeping children safe and facilitate the reunification efforts when possible with birth families. Maintaining the FFAs high quality of expertise without disruption is of the utmost importance to the wellbeing of foster children and youth. Please explore, support the affordability of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs. Thousands of children are counting on us and you! Thank you!</p>  |
| Martha P Mancilla | <p>My name is M. Patricia Mancilla and I'm the Administrative &amp; Facilities Coordinator at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>   |
| Mary D Gleason    | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |



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| Mary-Linn Hughes | My family was created thanks to the incredible social workers and staff at Extraordinary Families. I can't say enough about the importance of FFAs and the need to support the critical work that they do. Please take action to advocate for solutions that will allow FFAs to remain insured and continue to support families like mine.  |
| Meena Wardak     | <p>My name is Meena Wardak and I am a Foster Care Social Worker and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. The loss of FFAs would have devastating consequences for the children in care that are in need of stability. Without the support and resources provided by FFA's, thousands of children would face displacement with many left in unstable or temporary living situations. The loss of FFA's would severely limit children's chances of finding permanent, nurturing families. This will leave children to navigate an ill-equipped system to address their emotional and developmental needs. Additionally, the loss of FFA's would increase the likelihood of children being exposed to violence, poverty, and homelessness, further adding to the trauma they have already experienced. The long term impact could lead to challenges in their social and emotional well-being and may affect their ability to thrive in adulthood. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Meghan Baier     | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of   |



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| Melody Taylor Stark | <p>PLEASE PASS! Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California should NEVER have been allowed to do this so abruptly! Disgusting!</p>  |
| Micah Perez         | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Michael Firestone   | <p>I met my husband after he already completed the adoption of two wonderful boys from foster care. He was with the FFA Extraordinary Families and they helped him through the entire process. The boys' case was considered a "difficult" placement since they had been in the system for 3 years and were moved 9 times before they were matched with my husband. Extraordinary Families made sure it was their last move, with social workers and staff providing every support needed to ensure a loving and permanent home for the boys. After our wedding, we got certified with Extraordinary Families as a couple and were able to reunify 3 baby girls with family before eventually adopting our daughter during our fourth placement. I can't imagine losing FFAs as a resource due to an insurance issue. Please work to find solutions so that FFAs may continue to support children and families like mine grow and thrive.</p>   |
| Michael G Reyes     | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the</p>  |





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| Michelle Fenske | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Miguel Sanchez  | These agencies are doing a tremendous work for the community and they need this insurance to continue to work.   |
| Mimi Carter     | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Mirella Garcia  | Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children   |





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|              | <p>served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Myron D Quon | <p>My name is Myron Dean Quon, Esq., and I am a resource parent who did foster-to-adopt of our two boys.</p> <p>Although we did not work with a FFA, we know many other resource parents who did and we support FFAs. In particular, we had more than 4 years of horrid experiences with various bureaucrats who did shoddy work for DCFS and failed to center the needs of our children. The mistreatment ranged from treating them like pieces of paper to seeking to bully us and misrepresent DCFS in order to force an adoption under their timeline. Other issues included poorly supervised visits with the bio parents to the inability to support us in our foster to adoption needs. DCFS failed repeatedly - our fellow resource parents working with FFAs fared much better because the FFAs are experts in this area, and can prevent typical DCFS bureaucrats from misbehaving. Seriously, we dealt with more than a dozen "social workers" from DCFS. They were not well trained and they ranged from rude to manipulative to homophobic. The high turnover was also stressful. We actually still see them occasionally, since we did a guardianship. They continue to have no common sense, act like they are in a rush, and fail to center the needs of our kids (for example, hoping to ask our kid about his sexual behavior, although he is special needs and cannot comprehend those questions. Yet this person clearly felt pressure to check a box and moved forward and failed. And did not consider possible trauma from this line of questioning. A complete social work fail.)</p> <p>One last example of DCFS staff failing our children: we chose adoption as well as guardianship for our boys (the older did not want to lose his legal connection to his bio parents). Yet DCFS staff sought to lie and trick us into choosing the same path (adopt both or guardianship for both). We are fortunate that the Children's Law Center provided an independent and experienced social worker to call out these lies and force all the bureaucrats to back off and prioritize the needs of our children. She noted that they behaved like there was a kickback in their behavior, despite the clear love and family we had created over the years. She at least silenced them, although they clearly have neither shame nor changed behavior, after her calling them out at the CFT meeting.</p> <p>Therefore, I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. FFAs ultimately help the children in the foster care system. Without</p> |



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|                | them, I fear for children in the DCFS system and the resource parents who will have to deal with DCFS bureaucrats without FFAs to keep the children better off.   |
| Nora Kiely     | I chose to become a Foster Parent in order to support children and families in need. Navigating the emotional turbulence of being a parent to children in crisis would have been impossible without the support of my FFA, Extraordinary Families. We were able to reach out and get help when needed. With tens of thousands of kids in foster care, many in the care of Foster Families certified through FFAs I urge you to explore all options and advocate for FFAs like Extraordinary Families to be insured in order to prevent traumatic disruptions for children currently in care and to ensure that the system is not overloaded with cases and left in need of certified families more than it already is.  |
| Nora Real      | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.  |
| Norma A Duque  |   |
| Norma B Lerner | <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Add specific examples to humanize/explain what a loss of FFAs means to the system.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County</p> |



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|                 | contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children."  |
| Ofelia Medina   |   |
| Olivia Stites   | <p>My name is Olivia Stites and I am an employee at the Association of Community Human Service Agencies.</p> <p>I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems</p> <p>-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep</p> <p>children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and</p> <p>permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a</p> <p>model of care that the current system cannot replicate.</p> <p>I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900</p> <p>children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Omar Zambrano   | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Oscar A Barrera |   |



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| Paola Lopez     | <p>My name is Paola Lopez and I am a Foster Care Program Assistant and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. The loss of FFAs would have devastating consequences for the children in care that are in need of stability. Without the support and resources provided by FFA's, thousands of children would face displacement with many left in unstable or temporary living situations. The loss of FFA's would severely limit children's chances of finding permanent, nurturing families. This will leave children to navigate an ill-equipped system to address their emotional and developmental needs. Additionally, the loss of FFA's would increase the likelihood of children being exposed to violence, poverty, and homelessness, further adding to the trauma they have already experienced. The long term impact could lead to challenges in their social and emotional well-being and may affect their ability to thrive in adulthood. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Patricia Rapan  |  |
| Paulina Saravia | A loss of FFAs will be detrimental to kids in the foster system.   |
| pedro Helguera  | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are  |



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| Penina M Frager     | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Philip Welch        | <p>I chose to become a resource parent because I was aware of a need and was in a position to offer support. Working with my FFA has allowed me to open my family and home as a safe, caring setting for kids who need it most. Meeting the needs of the children in my care requires additional help and guidance. For me, that has come in the form of the social workers and staff of Extraordinary Families, who are available 24/7 to support my family through the big and small challenges that arise. The support and guidance Extraordinary Families offers is too numerous to list. In short, we would have been lost in a vast bureaucratic system without their wonderful insight. I am deeply troubled by the possibility of losing agencies like Extraordinary Families. I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and allow FFAs to continue to support families like mine.</p>   |
| Purva Bhattacharjee | <p>On behalf of the California Alliance of Child and Family Services (the CA Alliance), and the over 160 nonprofit community-based organizations it represents, we proudly support the Foster Family Agency Insurance Crisis Analysis recommendation by Supervisor Barger and ask for your vote.</p> <p>We ask that LA County work with the Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA) to develop solutions that help FFAs remain open, such as creating a pool of funds to help FFAs offset the higher insurance premiums and build a risk pool to avoid a future insurance crisis. You can find a list of recommended solutions developed by the CA Alliance as an attachment to our letter.</p>  |



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|------------------|---|
| Robert Rivera    |   |
| Roberta J Caruso | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> |
| Roberto Verduco  | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>                   |
| Robyn L Harrod   | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>                   |





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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

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|--|--|--|-----------------------|---|
|  |  |  | <b>Roy Firestone</b>  | <p>Growing up gay in the 80's, I was told I would never have a family. I chose to become a resource parent to create my family and provide a loving and safe environment for kids in need.</p> <p>Working with my FFA helped me navigate the system and create successful outcomes for two separate foster-care-originated adoptions for a total of three kids. I needed the help supporting their physical and emotional needs. The social workers and staff of Extraordinary Families were there for me every step of the way, 24/7. Extraordinary Families was instrumental in identifying resources like UCLA Ties for Families that provided counseling, educational advocacy, and behavioral health screening. I am deeply concerned at the prospect of losing agencies like Extraordinary Families. I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and allow FFAs to continue to support families like mine.</p>  |
|  |  |  | <b>Ryan Hunt</b>      | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
|  |  |  | <b>Scarlett Munoz</b> | <p>My name is Scarlett Munoz and I'm an Early Education Enrollment Specialist at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>  |
|  |  |  | <b>Sean Dakhil</b>    | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a</p>  |





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|                  | <p>spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| sean valla       |  |
| Shamara Long     | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Shaulon Shanklin | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Stacie Ruhl      | <p>My name is Stacie Ruhl. I am the Foster Care Supervisor with Extraordinary Families and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA</p>   |



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|                   |   |
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|                   | <p>insurance crisis.</p> <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.</p> <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. FFAs help ensure children remain in stable, uninterrupted care until they can reunify with thier families or through adoption by working closely with resource families to provide trauma-informed education/training, facilitation of family time, crisis mangement, etc. Without FFAs, children served would be at greater risk of disurption and thus re-traumatization, which impacts the systemn as a whole. Children with increased number of homes and loss require higher levels of care and accompanying services.</p> |
| Stephanie Carmona | <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Every day we work with families by connecting them to resources and ensuring that they're receiving the support that is needed to help them reach their goals. Some of these families get lost in the system and through our work as FFAs we are ensuring that we're able to meet these families where they are and working alongside of them. Our support as FFAs is instrumental in the future of these children and their families.</p>  |



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|                    | <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Stephanie Cruz     | <p>For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.</p>   |
| Stephanie Hall     | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Stephanie C Dencik | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will</p>   |



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|                 | not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.  |
| Steven Engle    | I am asking that you explore and advocate for all solutions so that FFAs can remain insured and allow FFAs like Extraordianry Families to support families like mine.  |
| Susan Sandoval  |  |
| Susan E Swan    | We must save foster family agencies! FFAs are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
| Tanya Gutierrez | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.             |
| Tessa Rouse     | My name is Tessa Rouse and I am the Lead Foster Care Social Worker at Extraordinary Families. I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children   |



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|                  | <p>and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Specifically, the families we work with go above and beyond to provide stability, love, and trauma-informed care to the children who join them. They support reunification and first family involvement to minimize loss and trauma, ensuring the needs of children are met across all areas. A loss of FFAs and the support we provide these children and families within this system would be detrimental to the overall stability and well-being of the children we serve. I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Tiffany Marshall | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>   |
| Tim Ryder        | <p>As the President and CEO of San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, I know how critical it is to the entire child welfare system to have healthy, high-functioning Foster Family agencies, particularly those run in the private, nonprofit sector. My name is Tim Ryder and I STRONGLY support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for County solutions and state level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to</p>  |



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|                | <p>families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today.</p> <p>The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations like San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. Thank you.</p>  |
| Tommy Pham     | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> |
| Trish Gonzales | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>                   |





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|------------------|---|
| Verenise Rios    | <p>My name is Verenise Rios and I'm an Inclusion Specialist at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>  |
| Vernon H McGill  | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Veronica Vasquez | <p>My name is Veronica Vasquez and I'm a Director of Inclusion Services at Allies for Every Child's Early Education Center. It's a priority for us to serve children who are in the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness, and we do this by working in partnership with our Foster Family Agency (FFA) program.</p> <p>Day in and day out, we need to be ready and willing to respond to the trauma that our children and families come in with. It takes a village to support them with whatever they may need, and our in-house expertise makes this all possible (educators, mental health, occupational therapists, support with behavioral challenges like food hoarding, nutrition specialists, public health nurse, etc.). We have great community partnerships that support our staff in providing resources to children and families where there's food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We pride ourselves on serving families in our community that need our help the most.</p>  |
| Vicky Nunez      | <p>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of</p>   |





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|                 | <p>insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children."</p>   |
| Vincent Front   | <p>Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p> |
| Wendy Gutierrez | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
| Wendy Wang      | <p>Chair Horvath and Honorable Supervisors,<br/>Sycamores writes to articulate its strong support for the motion entitled Foster Family Agency Insurance Crisis Analysis. We want to recognize Supervisor Barger for authoring this motion and Chair Horvath for serving as a co-author given the current existential crisis facing nonprofit organizations that operate Foster Family Agencies in Los Angeles County.<br/>In contemporary history, Foster Family Agencies across California have faced long-standing challenges that undermine the sustainability of these programs that serve and support foster youth and their resource families in their respective communities. The compounding effects of year-after-year inadequate low reimbursement rates, enactment of AB 218 and AB 452 in</p>   |



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

|  |                |  |
|--|----------------|--|
|  |                | <p>prior years, and NIAC's monopoly of the insurance market of FFAs in California have led to this existential moment for the majority of FFAs in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>The Newsom Administration and relevant state entities have made it abundantly clear after months of hearing from LA County, child welfare advocates, resource families, and Foster Family Agencies that CA has no intention of taking any additional action, at the current time, to ensure that more than 9,000 impacted foster youth and families will face minimal disruption, or care should NIAC covered FFAs all close. In summary, the state has abdicated its responsibility for these foster youth despite repeated statements that the future foster care rate reform system will rely on family-based care and less on out-of-home/residential settings. With the anticipated closure of many FFAs, there will be LESS infrastructure and capacity of family-based care in the future—placing the success of California's future foster rate reform in great doubt.</p> <p>Sycamores is heartened to see that with the introduction of this motion, LA County is continuing to prioritize foster youth and their resource families and understands the importance of identifying tangible solutions to preserve this critical FFA infrastructure. We believe that passage of this motion is VITAL to helping the greater child welfare system even though it may not help Sycamores.</p> <p>Sycamores has been directly impacted by this FFA insurance crisis. Earlier this summer, with the notice by NIAC about our nonrenewal coverage for our FFA starting November 1, 2024, the Sycamores' Board of Directors and Executive Leadership Team have grappled with very difficult decisions. We are one of the FFAs that are immediately impacted in the current sixty-day window.</p> <p>Given the urgency of this issue facing Sycamores and other FFAs, we respectfully urge you to immediately adopt this motion to protect LA County's foster youth and resource families.</p> |
|  | William Nash   | <p>Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.</p>  |
|  | Yolanda Galvez |  |



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

|  |               |                |  |
|--|---------------|----------------|--|
|  | <b>Oppose</b> | Alfredo Zuany  |  |
|  |               | Dana E Pehrson | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.  |
|  |               | Maria G Flores | "For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Add specific examples to humanize/explain what a loss of FFAs means to the system.<br><br>I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children." |
|  | <b>Other</b>  | adriana luquin | Foster Family Agencies(FFAs) are a critical component of the continuum of care for systems-involved youth. FFAs support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification and permanency through a spectrum of services and supports available to families 24/7. This is a model of care that the current system cannot replicate. I am deeply troubled by the FFA insurance crisis that could negatively impact the nearly 1,900 children served by FFAs in L.A. County today. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for  |

|             |  |            |                  |  |
|-------------|--|------------|------------------|--|
|             |  |            |                  | thousands of children and families. If the underlying insurability problems are unaddressed, I further worry that non-profit human services organizations will not be able to continue to step up to serve communities. I ask that you act now to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions to the FFA insurance crisis that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children. |
|             |  |            | LaKisha G Camese |  |
|             |  | Item Total | 205              |  |
| Grand Total |  |            | 205              |  |

9/24/24

Dear Board of Supervisors,

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in LA County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.

Sincerely,

Jackie Jakob, LCSW  
Foster Care and Adoptions Director  
Trinity Youth Services  
1000 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 650  
Monterey Park, CA 91754  
626-966-1776



## **Nuevo Amanecer Latino** CHILDREN'S SERVICES



*Accredited Since 2004*



California Alliance  
OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES



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[norma@nalffa.org](mailto:norma@nalffa.org)

**Corporate Office**

**Lic. # 197802088**

**Tel: (323) 720-9951**

**Fax: (323) 720-9953**

**5400 Pomona Blvd.**

**Los Angeles, CA 90022**

September 23, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors,

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital service through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.

Thank you for your support!

Ofelia Medina, Director of Operations

Nuevo Amanecer Latino Children's Services

***"Providing children with a path to a better future life"***

The ongoing insurance crisis in California poses a grave threat to thousands of children if a solution is not reached soon. Foster Family Agencies (FFAs), which provide crucial support and care for vulnerable children, are at risk of closing due to skyrocketing insurance costs. If these agencies shut down, thousands of children will be left without the stability, safety, and nurturing environments they need. This could lead to overcrowded state systems, fewer placement options, and disrupted lives for children who already face tremendous challenges. The ripple effect would be devastating for both the children and the families who support them, making it imperative to resolve this crisis before it's too late.



To whom it may concern:

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.

In collaboration with other departments, our FFA provides efficient and effective services to children and their families.

In my caseload, there is a set of siblings (ages 4, 7, and 8) who have several diagnoses (medical, mental health, and educational), including Asthma, Eczema, ADHD, PTSD, ODD, SLD, OHI, SLI, Borderline Intellectual Functioning, Specific Developmental Disorder of Motor Function, Inadequate Social Skills, Anxiety Disorder, Conduct Disorder; Family history of Other Mental and Behavioral Disorders, and Other Specified Problems Related to Upbringing; many of these are due to experienced trauma. One of them was in a 24-hour psychiatric observation at a children's hospital for self-harming behavior. They all have demonstrated signs of Scatolia and developmental delays; they have limited delayed-gratification and social skills. The kids were initially unschooled, but we have managed to have them all eligible for special education and related services; they all attend a Special Day Class. We are working on reunification with relatives through ICPC, with the continuation of all the services they currently have, including one of them receiving 30 hours of ABA per week (six per day).

There is also a six-year-old who is labeled with Emotional Disturbance. Due to extreme behaviors, he had very limited access to the curriculum in the previous special education school program that was run by the County. We have made considerable efforts to transfer him to a Spectrum school, where he is receiving behavior interventions that are consistent, regular, and efficient. Considering his behavior and social skills have improved greatly, he is about to graduate from WrapAround services, although MH services will continue.

Our teens have AWOLed, exhibited self-harming behaviors, and practiced risky behaviors.

We cannot do it alone. We collaborate with other service providers such as CSWs, Mental Health Teams, and School Personnel. While we constantly provide interventions, seek additional services, monitor meetings, and coordinate efforts for

transitioning and strength-building, we also receive training. Topics include Trauma-Informed Care, Pro-Act, Civil Rights, Naloxone, Implicit Bias, and Cultural Competency.

We visit the homes at least weekly and as often as necessary, particularly after an incident, to verify safety and overall wellness. This FFA makes extraordinary efforts to find homes that are nurturing, and willing and able to provide stability and permanency. Our families, with our guidance and supervision, procure life-long, healthy relationships that give a sense of normalcy to the minor's upbringing.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions to prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.



# Pacific Clinics

September 23, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors-

**RE: Item 27 Foster Family Agency Insurance Crisis Analysis**

On behalf of Pacific Clinics, I write in support of Supervisor Barger's referral to County Counsel to explore options for the insurance crisis FFAs are currently experiencing.

Virtually all FFAs have been insured by one insurance provider who has notified us that they are planning to leave the California market and will not renew policies. FFA's are at risk of shutting down as a result because we cannot operate without liability insurance. This will disrupt the whole child welfare system and remove the services that over 9,700 foster children, and the families that support them, are counting on. State leaders need to step up to stabilize this market.

Over 9,700 lives are impacted by the loss of FFA services and support. Foster youth are at risk of being out on the street. That's why we need state leaders to take action to stabilize the insurance market so we can keep our doors open to serve youth and families who are counting on us

The insurance crisis is the last financial straw for many non-profit foster family agencies that were already operating on a razor's edge because costs of rent, staffing, and other operating expenses have soared while the state has cut support for these vital community-based organizations. We cannot afford to let this issue go unaddressed.

Pacific Clinics is pleased to support Supervisor Barger for proposing the referral to County Counsel to assess possible solutions to the devastating insurance challenges FFAs are experiencing.

If you have any questions regarding our support, please contact Eva M. Terrazas, Chief Public Policy Officer, at [eva.terrazas@pacificclinics.org](mailto:eva.terrazas@pacificclinics.org) or 408.621.1335.

Sincerely,

**Eva M Terrazas, (She, Her, Ella)**

**Chief Public Policy and Advocacy Officer**

*Pacific Clinics – A Merger of Uplift Family Services and Pacific Clinics*

**Phone:** 408.628.5596

**Mobile:** 408.621.1335

**Web:** [www.pacificclinics.org](http://www.pacificclinics.org)

251 Llewellyn Ave.

Campbell, CA 95008



Pacific  
Clinics

My name is Jill Rosenberg and I am the Adoption Supervisor at Extraordinary Families, soon to be merging with Allies for Every Child, and I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for county solutions and state-level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis.

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.

In particular, our families serve the most vulnerable population of children, the little ones, age 0-5 years old. These years are crucial for brain development, and developing an attachment to a loving, attentive, and caring primary caregiver is extremely important. Our highly trained and skilled families selflessly parent these infants and toddlers as if they were their own birth children while supporting family reunification and building relationships with the child's family of origin to minimize loss and trauma. Often our foster parents become like extended family members and offer ongoing support to the family to enable success down the road.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.

9/23/2024

To whom it may concern,

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. Without the support of FFAs like ours, children in the L.A. County area will be faced with more overall troubles (mentally, emotionally, physically), less immediate interventions and support for the children and their families as well as the resource families, an increase of being in higher risk situations, being generally underserved, and the list could go on and on. The concept of FFAs is to be more connected, available and ensuring the overall wellbeing for the children served. FFAs visit with children in person a minimum of twice a month with a 24-hour availability in time of crisis. FFAs are here to support DCFS hand-in-hand to ensure children are safe and well. DCFS works in collaboration with FFAs like ours only to increase a better outcome for a child's successful future. Resource families play a tremendous role in the life of a child who has been apart from their biological family, by working together with social workers from both an FFA and DCFS, children in the system have the best support and increased safety to be the best that they could truly be today and their future.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.

Your time and consideration is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Advocate for FFAs and Foster Children



## **California Alliance of Child and Family Services Recommendations for Urgent Actions to Address Foster Family Agency Insurance Crisis**

**August 21, 2024**

The California Alliance is a member association that represents over 160 nonprofit community-based organizations that provide behavioral health, child welfare, education, prevention, juvenile justice and other critical services to children, youth and families in public systems. Many of these services are provided through contracts with county public agencies and/or health plans.

### **Problem:**

The Nonprofit Insurance Alliance of California (NIAC) insures 90% of the over 200 Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) in California. Over 9,700 children and youth are served through these FFAs. NIAC has alerted its current clients, and the brokers who serve them, that without legislative action through the passing of AB 2496 with its original language, they will begin nonrenewal of FFAs for insurance coverage on September 30, 2024. There are very few for profit insurance companies that will write coverage for these organizations. In cases where they are willing to consider providing coverage, the rates are 2-4 times higher than FFAs are paying to NIAC. With the potential for at least 1,600 children to be affected by the beginning of September, we need the state to act immediately & address this crisis.

This crisis will not only impact the provision of FFAs that place children and youth with foster families. This will also impact the adoptions of children in foster care, as most foster family agencies are also adoption agencies. Additionally, these organizations provide the crisis and shelter care for many counties, which will be dismantled. This will result in more children in unlicensed care, which could lead to foster kids sleeping in offices and unlicensed locations. Many of these organizations are multi-service organizations, providing a continuum of care, and because they have FFA services, they will also not be renewed. This means services of all types – behavioral health, transitional housing, wraparound services, etc. – will be impacted.

In addition to this looming crisis, children and youth are already being moved from some foster homes that have swimming pools (or are near bodies of water) due to the inability for FFAs to obtain liability coverage for homes near water. This began in July, 2024, and in situations where



the FFA cannot get coverage, children and youth are having to be removed and placed in other foster homes without pools.

### **Recommended Immediate Actions:**

- 1) Institute temporary limitation on sexual abuse claims against FFAs, mirroring the MICRA Act that limits claims for medical malpractice. Just as physicians, hospitals, clinics and providers fall under MICRA, FFAs' financial liability should be limited, at least temporarily, for other solutions to be developed that allow FFAs to continue to obtain insurance.

*What it does:* Provides a temporary solution that addresses the immediate problem of the collapse of foster family agencies and gives time for all interested parties to come together and discuss solutions. This option does not cost the state additional dollars.

- 2) Have the state take on coverage of sexual abuse claims for FFAs until a long-term solution can be identified for the market. NIAC and other insurers are willing to cover other components of liability insurance. This could be done for the next 12-18 months while the legislature, state (and potentially federal) agencies can be engaged to develop long term coverage solutions. The insurance crisis doesn't only impact FFAs, but will likely soon impact other nonprofit organizations that will soon face similar limitations in insurance coverage.

*What it does:* Creates a short-term solution that allows FFAs to stay in business while the interested groups are able to determine a plan for long term solutions

- 3) Create a time-limited state fund that will cover the excess financial risk incurred by insurers of FFAs. This would have the affect of immediately addressing NIAC's decision not to renew coverage and would also likely bring additional insurers to the market. Clear guidelines for access to these funds would need to be put in place, with oversight and conditions for use determined. This fund would not be available in cases where there is clear negligence on the part of the FFA. This could be available through June 30, 2025 with the expectation that a long-term solution would be developed through legislation. This fund would likely need to be a \$50 million set aside.

*What it does:* Addresses the immediate crisis and assures NIAC and other insurers that they will not become insolvent due to excess financial risk.

- 4) Provide FFAs with additional funding to pay for increased premium. A state fund that FFAs can access to pay for the increased costs that other insurers are requiring would potentially bring in additionally carriers to the market that will write coverage for FFAs. This type of fund would require a minimum of \$10 million. This will likely help some FFAs but will not address the overall crisis. Also, there will still be FFAs that cannot get insurance coverage and both children and youth will be impacted.

*What it does:* This would potentially bring additional insurers into the market that could replace the coverage that FFAs have with NIAC.

*What it doesn't do:* There is no way of knowing whether there will be enough insurers to cover the loss of NIAC's coverage even with the ability to pay for higher premiums. It is also not clear if \$10M will cover these costs across over 200 FFAs in the state.

- 5) Have county agencies obtain coverage for FFAs through their self-insurance or risk pools. While individual JPA risk pools are independent and determine what entities are included in their pool, there may be counties that prefer to use this approach rather than have the burden of taking on additional families. The [PRISM risk](#) program works with public agencies to help manage coverage for vendors in certain circumstances, and an urgent time limited solution that ensures coverage of FFAs for the next year could be developed in partnership with them.

*What it does:* Adds an additional approach to coverage for FFAs in cases where the public agency risk pool is willing to include coverage for FFAs.

*What it doesn't do:* This does not solve the larger problem of insurance coverage in this market in the short run, and will provide coverage for only those FFAs that counties are willing to cover.

- 6) Create flexibility in the ability to “port” families with FFAs that are not able to obtain insurance to other FFAs that are able to obtain insurance. Reducing the current barriers to transitioning families from one FFA to another will help families keep children and youth with them. This same flexibility could be used in cases where an FFA and a county agree that families could be ported to the county.

*What it does:* This will allow children and youth to remain with their foster parents.

*What it doesn't do:* This does not solve the larger problem of insurance coverage in this market in the short run, and this creates significant burdens on state licensing to take on the task of completing any regulatory paperwork needed to move families from one FFA to another or to the counties.

- 7) Provide funds to assist the development of an independent risk pool for FFAs (and potentially other organizations). This is not a short term solution, but funding would need to be available immediately (\$100,000) to study the feasibility of creating such a risk pool.

For nearly a hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in myriad ways. Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve nearly 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, ameliorate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible and permanency through adoption when not. We have a unique, profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not situated to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the County could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families. FFAs are the foundation in which LA helps operate on. Because of these, more children receive a higher quality of care that is LGBTQ+ and BIPOC-focused. I've been in contact with hundreds of Transition Age Youth. Many have said they wished they had been a part of our FFA had they been given the choice because we've been able to provide care in which we center the child. So much is broken when we don't center the child. If you care about these kiddos, you MUST care about FFAs. Much of the future is dependent upon them.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending County contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for County contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short-term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I ask that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.



**Serving children and families since 1953**

5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90043

**T** (323) 295-4555 | **F** (323) 296-0424 | [WayfinderFamily.org](http://WayfinderFamily.org)

September 24, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
500 West Temple Street  
Room 383  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Directors,

My name is Jay Allen, President & Chief Executive Officer of Wayfinder Family Services. I strongly support Supervisors Barger and Horvath's motion calling for County solutions and state-level advocacy related to the FFA insurance crisis. For roughly one hundred years, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) like ours have served the children and families of Los Angeles County in countless ways.

Today, FFAs in L.A. County serve approximately 1,900 children, providing high-quality, supportive services to children with some of the highest levels of need. We support the work of the Department of Children and Family Services to keep children safe, alleviate the effects of system involvement, and facilitate reunification when possible, and permanency through adoption when not. We have a uniquely profound understanding of working with families and utilize that expertise to provide vital services through a model that the County is not positioned to replicate. The loss of high-quality, experienced FFAs throughout the country could result in disruption and trauma for thousands of children and families.

I am appealing to you to explore all solutions, including amending county contract language to help support the procurement and affordability of insurance policies, facilitating the creation of insurance coverage for county-contracted FFAs, and creating a fund that helps organizations with increased premiums in the short term, while sustainable solutions that address the underlying issues can be found. I respectfully request that you use whatever resources you have available to expediently identify and implement short- and long-term solutions that will prevent the placement disruption and irrevocable loss of services for thousands of children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Allen".

Jay Allen  
President & Chief Executive Officer

**Changing the future, together.**

**Give with trust.**

