



**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

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
4.		Oppose	Latia Suttle	wide, such as a child being in foster care for 15 months as stated above. In practice, the policy does not inform the parent of the fast-track adoption until parental rights have been terminated and the adoption of the child is finalized. 3. Notify biological parents about adoptions mandatory before and after adoptions take place. Parents need to be served with paperwork before a parental rights termination request can be heard. Adoptions are finalized without a parent being notified. Parental termination or adoption should not take place without the parent being notified. See attach Demand Letter. STOP FAST TRACK ADOPTIONS. See attached Demand Letter
			Latia Suttle	1. Amend the time frame on the Adoption and Safe Families Act. (training.cfsportal.acf.hhs.gov/section-2-understanding-child-welfare-system/2999) The Adoption and Safe Families Act mandates CA to file for termination of parental rights (TPR) if a child has been in foster care for a minimum of 15 months. However, terminating parental rights because a child is in foster care for 15 months can be an unreasonable punishment on the child and parent. For example, in 2014 adults in CA were sentenced to a mean time of 3.3 years in prison for non-violent offenses (apps.urban.org/features/long-prison-terms/data.html). If their child was placed in foster care, then their parental rights would have been terminated, a consequence that disproportionately outweighs any non-violent crime for which a parent would receive a greater than 15 month jail or prison sentence. 2. Stop all fast track adoption policies. The criteria for fast-track adoption eligibility are too wide, such as a child being in foster care for 15 months as stated above. In practice, the policy does not inform the parent of the fast-track adoption until parental rights have been terminated and the adoption of the child is finalized. 3. Notify biological parents about adoptions mandatory before and after adoptions take place. Parents need to be served with paperwork before a parental rights termination request can be heard. Adoptions are finalized without a parent being notified. Parental termination or adoption should not take place without the parent being notified.
		Other	Stephanie M Jeffcoat	
		Item Total	3	
Grand Total			3	

Good Morning Madam Chair and Board Members,

My name is Stephanie Jeffcoat. I'm a law student, a published author, and a nonprofit executive, but none of those titles matter more than this: I am a mother who has lived the pain of losing her child to adoption.

This month is widely celebrated for its uplifting adoption stories, but we cannot ignore the painful truth beneath the surface. Far too many parents, particularly those impacted by incarceration, poverty, substance use, or child welfare involvement, are losing their children through fast-tracked foster care adoptions— not because they are unfit, but because our systems have made it disturbingly easy to permanently dismantle families.

This year marks 28 years since the Adoption and Safe Families Act — a policy that turned family separation into a fast-moving machine by financially incentivizing states to remove children and rush the termination of parental rights. And I stand before you as one of the countless parents whose life was permanently reshaped by that law.

During a six-month jail sentence, the world outside moved without me. In that short time, my daughter was adopted. No notice, no hearing, no chance to fight. I didn't just leave jail with a record; I left with a grief that hollowed me—a mother mourning a child taken in silence by a system that treated my pain as collateral.

And my story is not unique. Thousands of parents—especially Black and Brown parents—are caught in a system that claims to protect children while often punishing families for circumstances rooted in poverty, trauma, and lack of resources. Too many children are being adopted out of foster care when what families really needed was help, not separation.

As we observe National Adoption Month, I urge this Board to remember that adoption is not always a celebration. For many families, it is a wound that never heals. We need oversight, transparency, and real investment in family preservation, reunification services, and support for parents working to rebuild their lives.

No parent should lose a child simply because they were incarcerated for half a year. No family should be disposable. And no system should prioritize speed and incentives over humanity.

I share my story today not for sympathy, but for action.

Please stand with families. Reform these practices.

Let National Adoption Month be more than awareness—let it be accountability.

Thank you

Stephanie Jeffcoat

Executive Director

Families Inspiring Reentry & Reunification 4 Everyone