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Betsy Butler

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N. Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support AB 1446 (Cooley) – Dependent Children: Periodic Review Hearing

Dear Assemblymember Rubio:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of Assembly Bill 1446, which would provide critical oversight to ensure that children in foster care do not linger in transitional, temporary, or emergency shelter placements not intended for long-term care.

A primary goal of the foster care system is to reunite a child with their parent(s) or provide a loving home elsewhere if a child cannot return to their home, promoting a stable family setting for the child. Although current law provides some protections prohibiting the placement of foster youth in short-term placements for extended periods of time, many foster youth still spend long periods of time in placements designed to be temporary, or find themselves bouncing from shelter to shelter. This is especially common for the older foster youth population. The resulting lack of family, stability and normalcy is re-traumatizing for a foster child.

AB 1446 would address this issue by requiring a court hearing every 15 days for any youth residing in placements designed to be temporary. The hearing would include a review of (1) the status of the child's circumstance, (2) efforts made by the child welfare agency to locate a family member or foster home, and (3) actions taken to identify adult relatives who might serve as placement options.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC recognizes the importance of providing safe, stable and permanent homes for children and youth and the significance of the family unit in a child's development.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 213.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director