February 26, 2021

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Increased Local Child Support Agency Funding – Support and Amend (SB 112 & AB 214)

Dear Senator Eggman and Assemblymember Arambula:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in alliance with the Child Support Directors Association (CSDA) to support their request for an augmentation to the Governor’s proposed funding for local child support operations. While the Governor’s proposal would increase funding for Local Child Support Agencies (LCSAs) $24.9 million above current levels, that does not meet the resource needs of LCSAs as they work to address California’s child poverty crisis.

CSDA requests a funding increase of $56.5 million ($19.2 million State General Funds, matched by $37.3 million in federal funds) above fiscal year (FY) 2020-2021 funding – an additional $31.6 million above the January proposal. This is part of an existing three-year plan to fund LCSAs at a level that meets their operational needs and ensures their ability to provide appropriate, effective services. This $31.6 million augmentation to the Governor’s proposal would represent a critically needed step toward addressing the California child support program’s severe underfunding crisis.

The program provides essential services to families and the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic underscores the importance of our program. The funding would help to address a decades long underfunding and enable Local Child Support Agencies to use the money for operational needs and providing effective services.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform that includes the Inter-Agency Collaboration Principle that specifically states that the County will partner with the advocacy efforts of organizations and other local, regional agencies and associations in order to collaborate on mutually beneficial issues such as the protection of children, and other “at risk” populations while upholding the principles of efficient service delivery and operations, fiscal stability and
In addition to the Pandemic Funding Relief for Local Governments Plank that states that the County, if not provided proper funding or backfill, will be forced to make significant reductions or cuts to a broad range of public services and to its staff. Counties need fiscal assistance to stabilize local government operations to offset the devastating impacts the crisis is having on our communities.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Nancy Anderson at 805-568-3407 or NAnderson@countyofsbg.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg

_Governmental Advocates, Inc._

cc:  
Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Renita Polk, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Rebecca Hamilton, Budget Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Republican Assembly Caucus
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President pro Tempore
Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst’s Office
Jacqueline Barocio, Legislative Analyst’s Office
Adam Dorsey, Department of Finance
Brent Houser, Department of Finance
Marko Mijic, California Health and Human Services Agency
Vishaal Pegany, California Health and Human Services Agency
David Kilgore, Director, Department of Child Support Services
Nan Chen, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Child Support Services
The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties