



## Judicial Council of California

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May 21, 2025

Hon. Jesse Arreguín  
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 545  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Subject: Assembly Bill 741 (Ransom), as introduced—Support**  
**Hearing: Senate Public Safety Committee—TBD**

Dear Senator Arreguín:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support Assembly Bill 741 which requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to monitor the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) and notify the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program if a child abuse investigation record involving a CASA employee or volunteer is added to CACI, and allows the DOJ to increase the fee for a CASA candidate's criminal history information sufficient to cover the cost of processing subsequent child abuse investigation notifications from CACI.

AB 741 would aid CASA programs in ensuring that their employees and volunteers can safely fulfill their court appointed duties. A CASA is a trained volunteer appointed by a judicial officer to provide advocacy for a child who is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. CASA volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" of the judge for children in foster care. Volunteers spend time with children, monitor needed services, and provide child-focused recommendations to the court based on the best interest of the children they serve. Currently, there are 45 CASA programs providing services to the local superior courts in 52 of California's 58 counties with approximately 11,000 active CASA volunteers serving 13,000 children and youth statewide.

While CASA programs currently receive notices from the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the Department of Motor Vehicles of any changes in the background screening results of any volunteer or employee, they do not get subsequent notices from California's Child Abuse Central Index which includes reports of substantiated child abuse investigations. As a result, all CASA volunteer and employees must be re-fingerprinted every four years to ensure that they can

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continue their work with children. This procedure delays vital information that could be used by a CASA program to prevent harm to a child if a volunteer or staff member is alleged to have hurt a child. Further, it is a financial expense and an administrative burden to the local CASA programs. AB 741 would remedy this gap by authorizing ongoing CACI notifications to CASA programs to ensure that they have the information they need to protect the children they serve.

CASA volunteers play a vital role in ensuring that juvenile courts have comprehensive information about the needs and status of the children and youth that they are appointed to serve. AB 741 will support the juvenile courts in ensuring that these volunteers pose no danger to the children that they serve and thus enhance the quality of the court appointed service.

For these reasons the council is pleased to support AB 741.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tracy Kenny at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Cory T. Jaspersen  
Director  
Governmental Affairs

CTJ/TK/lmm

cc: Members, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Hon. Rhodesia Ransom, Member of the Assembly, 13th District  
Cheryl Anderson, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy and Fiscal  
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Michelle Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California