

## Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3393 Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE Chief Justice of California Chair of the Judicial Council WILLIAM C. VICKREY

Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT Chief Deputy Director

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

June 5, 2006

Hon. Dave Jones, Chair Assembly Judiciary Committee State Capitol, Room 3126 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 1667 (Kuehl), as amended March 29, 2006 - Support

Hearing: Assembly Judiciary Committee – June 13, 2006

Dear Assembly Member Jones:

I am pleased to inform you that the Judicial Council is in support of SB 1667 which would expand opportunities for foster parents and other caregivers to participate in juvenile dependency hearings by requiring that the social worker provide them with a caregiver information form and information on how to submit it to the court, and authorizing them to attend post-permanency planning hearings.

The Judicial Council supports SB 1667 because it will enhance the ability of the court to obtain relevant information from foster parents and other caregivers for dependent children. Unlike all the other parties in court, the caregivers have daily interactions with the children under the court's jurisdiction. As a result, they are likely to have information that is vital to an accurate understanding of the child's situation. That information will assist the court as it seeks to make well-informed decisions in the best interest of the child. In recent years, there have been a number of foster parents lamenting the death of a child who had been in their custody and was returned to a parent who subsequently killed the child. Their frustration has been acute because the caregivers indicated that they had information about the risk that the parents posed to the child, but were unable to communicate that information to the court. SB 1667 could help prevent those tragedies in the future.

Hon. Dave Jones June 5, 2006 Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports SB 1667.

Kenny

Sincerely,

Tracy Kenny Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee

Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Member of the Senate

Mr. Manuel Valencia, Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee

Mr. Mark Redmond, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy Mr. Eric Csizmar, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor Ms. Sue Blake, Director of Legislation, Office of Planning and Research



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June 1, 2006

Hon. Sheila Kuehl Member of the Senate State Capitol, Room 5108 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 1667 (Kuehl), as amended March 29, 2006 - Support

Dear Senator Kuehl:

I am pleased to inform you that the Judicial Council is in support of SB 1667 which would expand opportunities for foster parents and other caregivers to participate in juvenile dependency hearings by requiring that the social worker provide them with a caregiver information form and information on how to submit it to the court, and authorizing them to attend post-permanency planning hearings.

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Hon. Sheila Kuehl June 1, 2006 Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports SB 1667.

Sincerely,

Tracy Kenny

Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Mr. Eric Csizmar, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor

Ms. Sue Blake, Director of Legislation, Office of Planning and Research