

## Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 1240 • Sacramento, California 95814-3358 Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE Chief Justice of California Chair of the Judicial Council

JODY PATEL
Interim Administrative Director of the Courts

CURT SODERLUND Interim Chief Deputy Director

CURTIS L. CHILD Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

June 21, 2012

Hon. Tom Ammiano, Chair Assembly Public Safety Committee State Capitol, Room 4005 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 1048 (Liu), as amended March 21, 2012 - Support Hearing: Assembly Public Safety Committee – June 26, 2012

Dear Assembly Member Ammiano:

The Judicial Council supports SB 1048, which expands the existing authority of the juvenile court to join in a juvenile court proceeding a governmental agency or private service provider providing legally mandated services to a child by allowing joinder at any time after a dependency or delinquency petition is filed, and by conforming the joinder language in the delinquency statute to track the current authority in the dependency statute that includes private service providers.

The council supports SB 1048 because it will enhance the ability of the juvenile court to ensure that the children under its jurisdiction are able to receive the services they need, consistent with the obligation of the court to carry out its statutory duty to protect the best interests of these children. Under current law a court cannot join an agency providing legally required services until after the court has adjudged the child a ward or a dependent. This limitation prevents the court from addressing service needs of the children under its jurisdiction that may assist the court in resolving the issues in the case more efficiently and expeditiously. Delays in adjudication of a case may arise for many reasons, but they should not interfere with the court's ability to ensure that required services are provided and the best interests of the child are protected. Often these

Hon. Tom Ammiano June 21, 2012 Page 2

services are linked to the issues that bring the minor before the court, and ensuring that they are provided in a timely manner may allow the case to be resolved earlier.

The council also supports conforming the definitions of who can be joined in dependency and delinquency matters because joinder is critical in both settings and must include any entity that is responsible for providing legally mandated services. The Judicial Council supported the legislation that expanded the joinder statute in dependency matters to expressly include private service providers, and there is no reason for the delinquency provisions to have a different scope as the contemplated agencies and service providers are the same.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports SB 1048.

Sincerely,

Fracy Kenny

Attorney

TK/yc

cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee

Hon. Carol Liu, Member of the Senate

Ms. Milena N. Blake, Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee Mr. Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy

Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor



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July 10, 2012

Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor of California State Capitol, First Floor Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 1048 (Liu) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Judicial Council supports SB 1048, which expands the existing authority of the juvenile court to join in a juvenile court proceeding a governmental agency or private service provider providing legally mandated services to a child by allowing joinder at any time after a dependency or delinquency petition is filed, and by conforming the joinder language in the delinquency statute to track the current authority in the dependency statute that includes private service providers.

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Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. July 10, 2012 Page 2

The council also supports conforming the definitions of who can be joined in dependency and delinquency matters because joinder is critical in both settings and must include any entity that is responsible for providing legally mandated services. The Judicial Council supported the legislation that expanded the joinder statute in dependency matters to expressly include private service providers, and there is no reason for the delinquency provisions to have a different scope as the contemplated agencies and service providers are the same.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on SB 1048.

Sincerely,

Attorney

Tracy Kenny

TK/yc

cc: Hon. Carol Liu, Member of the Senate

Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor