

[INSERT date]

The Honorable (insert legislator's first name and last name)
California State (insert "Assembly" or "Senate" as appropriate)
(insert legislator's local District address)
(insert "City, State and zip code")

RE: Support to children and resource families provided by Foster Family Agency (FFA) Social Workers

Dear (insert "Assembly Member" or "Senator") (insert last name):

I urge you to support a \$26.7 million budget allocation to address the impact of State mandated minimum wage increases on the salaries of the highly educated and skilled social workers employed by nonprofit Foster Family Agencies (FFA) that provide care for children and youth; ensuring their safety, increasing placement stability, and speeding permanency.

I have been a resource parent with (*Insert Name of FFA Agency*) since (*insert year*). I depend on my FFA social worker to provide me with ongoing support and with specialized training and services when times get tough. Without that kind of backing, I'm not sure I could care for the children who come to me having suffered the trauma of being removed from their homes as well as from the abuse or neglect that led to their removal. Many have significant emotional and behavioral challenges and, like me, they depend on their FFA social worker to offer compassionate support and needed services.

[Include a sentence or two about the supports and services your FFA social worker provides to you and your foster children. Feel free to use "Comments Template" for ideas.]

As a State legislator, you have a special responsibility to provide adequate financial support for the children and youth who come into foster care; that includes adequate compensation for the FFA social workers who are such key members of our foster care team.

All the social workers employed by (*Insert Name of Agency*)'s FFA are professionals required by law to have a Master's degree and special training. It's a challenging job. (*She or he*) is available to me whenever I need help. (*Insert Name of Agency*) has done everything possible to compensate its social workers fairly, but can only do so much when the amount for social work salaries built into the current State-set FFA rate does not receive an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) even though the amount I receive for care of children placed with me is adjusted every year. It doesn't make sense and it's not right.

Now, I understand that (*Insert Name of Agency*) cannot comply with the effects of the State mandated Minimum Wage Law. I support the minimum wage increases and I want my social worker to stay with my FFA, rather than leave for a social work job with government, a hospital or in education that offers higher pay and benefits, in order to better support (*his or her*) own family.

I am asking you to support a \$26.7 million budget allocation to bring FFA social worker salaries into alignment with the new State Minimum Wage Law.

Sincerely,

[INSERT Signature]

[INSERT Your Full Name]

[INSERT The FFA Address]

[INSERT Your Cell Phone if you wish]