



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON
CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 21, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for AB 562 (Solache)—Foster Care: Placement: Family Finding

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City is in strong support of AB 562, the Justice through Placing Children with Families Act, which would improve the process and incentives for the placement of foster children with relatives and culturally appropriate caregivers.

Every child deserves the opportunity to grow up in a safe and supportive environment, especially those who have experienced trauma and separation from their families. AB 562 ensures that counties regularly assess their relative placement rates against both statewide and federal benchmarks, including the placement preferences outlined in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). If a county's placement rates are lower than the state and federal benchmarks, AB 562 requires meaningful action, including collaboration with the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement, and Support to identify and implement best practices.

AB 562 also strengthens local government accountability by requiring county boards of supervisors to publicly address relative placement performance in regularly noticed meetings. These public discussions will foster transparency, elevate community awareness, and encourage local solutions to improve placement outcomes for foster youth.

The City recognizes the urgency of reducing placement in harmful institutional settings while supporting stable, nurturing homes for children in care, especially for Indigenous families, who face disproportionate separation. AB 562 provides counties with a clear pathway to examine and improve placement outcomes, ensuring every child has the stability and resources needed to thrive. For these reasons, the City supports AB 562.

Sincerely,

Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach