

# California State Senate

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December 22, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

It is our understanding that, at about the time California implemented your first COVID-related stay-at-home order back in March of this year, the state had approximately 7,200 foster children awaiting adoption, with roughly a third in a pre-adoptive setting. As a result of your various stay-at-home orders and guidance, dependency courts across the state ground to a halt, and we have heard reports of backlogs that have delayed or prevented children who were otherwise on the path to permanency from being placed in their forever homes. With all the emotional, social, and health burdens presented this year to families and children across this state, the best Christmas gift a foster child can receive is a forever home and you have the capability to help give that to them.

Study after study shows that, for children who have entered the child welfare system and for whom family reunification is not an option, permanent placement offers the best chance for these youth to transition into healthy, happy, and productive adults. While we understand finding suitable permanent placements for these youth does not happen overnight, we are concerned that California is not doing everything in its power to remove both short-term and long-term impediments to placement.

Accordingly, we strongly urge you to take those steps necessary – both short-term and long-term – to ensure these youth in dire need of permanent placements are placed in their forever homes in a timely fashion. If achieving this requires legislative action, Senate Republicans stand ready to work with you and the majority party to enact those changes necessary to make this a reality. These children are the future of California, and they deserve nothing less than immediate support.

We look forward to your reply and to working with you. Please contact me with any questions at (916) 651-4016 or [Senator.Grove@senate.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Grove@senate.ca.gov).

Respectfully,



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Shannon Grove  
Senate Republican Leader, 16<sup>th</sup> District



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Brian Jones, 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District



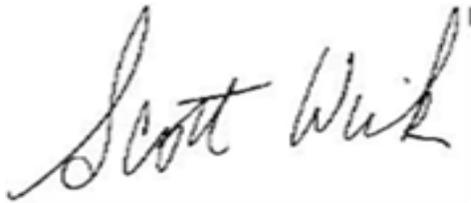
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Patricia Bates, 36<sup>th</sup> Senate District



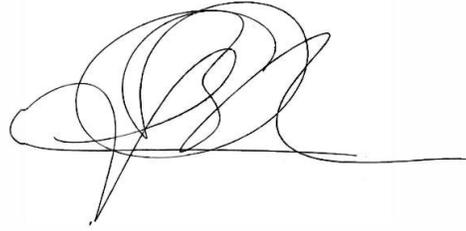
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Andreas Borgeas, 8<sup>th</sup> Senate District



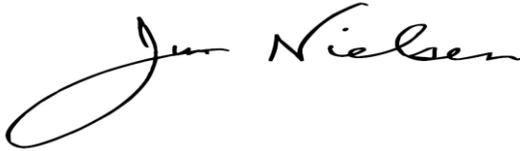
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Scott Wilk, 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District



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Rosilicie Ochoa-Bogh, 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



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Jim Nielsen, 4<sup>th</sup> Senate District