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August 29, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 1054 (Ochoa Bogh) – Public social services: records: confidentiality: multidisciplinary personnel teams – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I write to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 1054 by Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh. This bill would allow county multidisciplinary teams from Adult Protective Services and Child Welfare Services to share relevant information across programs during investigations.

Counties utilize multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) that bring together experts from different fields for many county programs including Adult Protective Services (APS) and Child Welfare Services (CWS). Individuals assisting with abuse and neglect investigations for APS and CWS MDTs may include county mental health and social workers, psychiatrists/psychologists, law enforcement, and educators. Currently, under state law, MDTs are not explicitly allowed to share information between APS and CWS programs.

SB 1054 would clarify in state law that APS and CWS MDTs can disclose information with each other for the limited purposes of prevention, intervention, management, or treatment of abuse or neglect for minors, dependent adults, and older adults. There are many instances where this information sharing can be helpful. In some situations, households have been identified by both programs and this sharing of information would allow for better protection of those at risk of abuse and neglect. In another example, a former foster youth may come to the attention of APS as a dependent adult and understanding the history of services they received as a minor could help improve the supports they are provided as an adult. SB 1054 will ensure a more informed and coordinated response to certain reports of abuse and neglect.

For these reasons, CSAC supports SB 1054 and respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at jgarrett@counties.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Justin Garrett
Senior Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, California State Senate
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Robert Smith, California Department of Social Services
County Welfare Directors Association of California