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March 28, 2012

The Honorable Noreen Evans
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2187
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1064 (De León) As Amended March 19, 2012 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Evans:

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 1064 (De León), a measure to eliminate family reunification barriers that immigrant families experience in the child welfare system.

Currently, there are at least 5,100 children nationwide in the child welfare system because their parents are under immigration custody or have been deported, and this number is expected to increase dramatically in the next five years. The majority of these children are United States citizens. When searching for a placement for these children, close family members may be unintentionally excluded from consideration because of their own immigration status.

SB 1064 would address this problem by allowing children to be placed with relatives, regardless of the relatives' immigration status. This measure would provide for greater security for vulnerable children, and we respectfully request your support for it when it is heard by your Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

George Shirakawa
President, Board of Supervisors

c: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Kevin De León
Santa Clara County Legislative Delegation
Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive
Michael Rattigan, Legislative Representative

