



May 22, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Weiner, Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Family Urgent Response System (FURS) \$13 Million Reduction – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Gabriel and Chair Weiner:

All For Kids strongly opposes the proposed reduction of the Family Urgent Response System (FURS).

Since 1904, All For Kids has nurtured child well-being through prevention, collaboration and compassion. Helping more than 50,000 children and parents each year from 14 community sites in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, we partner with families to prevent abuse from happening in the first place. Utilizing innovative programming, we specialize in strengthening the capacity of an entire area to build protective and supportive communities where children thrive.

We know the most effective way to reduce child maltreatment is to boost the protective factors that mitigate risks, promote well-being and foster healthy development – with key factors including parental resilience and the emotional competence of children.¹

The FURS hotline provides exactly those types of supports, consisting of a statewide helpline and mobile response systems in all 58 counties that provide face-to-face services to address situations of instability, preserve the relationship between the caregiver and child or youth, develop healthy conflict resolution and relationship skills, promote healing as a family, and stabilize difficult situations. This coordinated state and community-based solution helps preserve relationships and placements in family homes, link youth

and families to longer-term supports and services, promote healing, and prevent the criminalization of youth who have experienced trauma.

Since FURS launched in 2021, utilization has grown steadily with around 5,000 annual requests for support to the statewide helpline – many of which resulted in an in-person response. Program data shows that the vast majority of these requests have resulted in stabilized placements and ongoing supports for the child, youth, and/or caregiver. Reducing this vital program will place these children and youth at greater risk of instability, disrupted relationships, loss, and re-traumatization.

We appreciate that California is facing a budget deficit. However, we must not address this shortfall at the expense of our children and youth in foster care. For these reasons, All For Kids strongly urges you to reject the Governor’s proposal to reduce funding for FURS. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron E. Brown Ph.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron E. Brown, Ph.D.

President & CEO

All For Kids

Cc: Hon. Dr. Corey Jackson, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2

Hon. Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3

¹ Center for the Study of Social Policy, Strengthening Families: A Protective Factors Framework

<https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/About-Strengthening-Families.pdf>

Children’s Bureau of Southern California is proud to announce that we are now All For Kids.

This name change embraces how all of us – partners, families, and communities – work together to create a world where every child is safe to grow.