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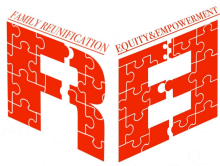
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COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN CASA OF LOS ANGELES



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FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



Keck School of Medicine of USC Department of Population and Public Health Sciences



May 16, 2022

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple St. Ste 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012
executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov
(Address continued below)

RE: Reimagine Child Safety Coalition Policy Recommendations

To the Honorable Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

On November 16, 2021, the Reimagine Child Safety Coalition presented a list of demands, calling on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to reimagine child safety and hold the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) accountable for meeting the needs of children and families across the county. We urged the Board of Supervisors to review and revise its policies and take action relating to DCFS and associated agencies accordingly. Since that time, our coalition has met with each supervisor's office to discuss our demands and share preliminary policy recommendations. As of May 16, 2022, exactly six months after our initial outreach, minimal action has been taken and no substantive changes have been made.

The family regulation system¹—still perceived by many to function to protect children—typically has the opposite impact. Instead of increasing child safety, removing children from their families often produces devastating outcomes, including exceedingly low graduation rates, high incarceration rates, poor health outcomes, and high rates of physical and sexual violence experienced while in foster care. The family regulation system is rooted in centuries of violence, white supremacy, and attempted cultural genocide. As the largest locally-run, so-called “child welfare” agency in the nation, the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services is a key player in this racist system, causing irreparable harm and trauma by needlessly ripping apart thousands of families annually.

In an effort to expedite relief for families, our coalition has developed policy recommendations to accompany each of our demands. These recommendations offer a plan to address some of DCFS's most inequitable policies and practices, and identify proven strategies that can keep children safe while simultaneously preventing families from being ripped apart.

Our families cannot wait! We urge the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to act with urgency on behalf of families and implement our recommendations now!

Sincerely,

ACLU of Southern California
All of Us Or None Orange County
Black/Jewish Justice Alliance
Black Lives Matter Los Angeles
Black Los Angeles Young Democrats
Black Women for Wellness
Breastfeed LA
California Families Rise
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

¹ We use the term “family regulation system” to refer to the “child welfare system” because it more accurately describes a system meant to “regulate and punish Black and other marginalized people.” Dorothy Roberts, *Abolishing Policing Also Means Abolishing Family Regulation*, The Imprint (2020) at <https://imprintnews.org/child-welfare-2/abolishing-policing-also-means-abolishing-family-regulation/44480>. See also Nancy D. Polikoff and Jane M. Spinak, *Forward - Strengthening Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being*, 11 COLUM. J. RACE & LAW 427, 431 (2021) at <https://journals.library.columbia.edu/index.php/cjrl/issue/view/789/188>.

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Coalition of Parents
Collective for Liberatory Lawyering (C4LL)
Dignity & Power Now
Family Court Anti-Corruption Coalition
Family Justice Tribe
Family Reunification, Equity & Empowerment (FREE) /Starting Over Inc.
Fannie Lou Hamer Center
HIVE
Justice LA Coalition
La Defensa
Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers
LA LGBT Center
Movement for Family Power
My Tribe Rise
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
Operations Stop CPS
Project Amiga
Reimagine Child Safety Group
Root and Rebound
San Bernardino Free Them All
Shepherd's Door Domestic Violence Resource Center
Showing Up for Racial Justice - Altadena/Pasadena
Starting Over, Inc.
The RightWay Foundation
Trans LifeLine
University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine Department of Population & Public Health Sciences
Western Center on Law and Poverty
White People 4 Black Lives
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
Youth Justice Coalition

Enclosed:

[Reimagine Child Safety Policy Recommendations](#)

CC:

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