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Children's Legislative Report Card

Children's Advocacy Institute

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## 2007 Children's Legislative Report Card

Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law

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# CHILDREN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** 2007–08

**REPORT CARD TERM:** 2007

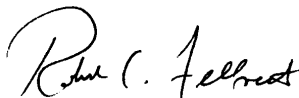
Dear Californians,

This *Report Card* reflects the grades attributed to California legislators for their votes on child-related legislation during the first year of the 2007–08 legislative session. The grades you will see reflect each legislator's votes on 22 bills that ran through policy and fiscal committees and achieved votes on both the Assembly and Senate floors. This *Report Card* also includes two additional bills, an Assembly bill that was killed in the Suspense File of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and a Senate bill that was killed in the Suspense File of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. For those measures, each legislator in the house of origin will receive a "yes" or "no" vote, depending on how he/she voted when the bill came up for a floor vote. Each legislator in the other house—where the bill died—will receive a "no" vote, reflecting the fact that they allowed the bill to die in the Suspense File without an affirmative vote. Thus, this *Report Card* reflects each legislator's actions on 24 total measures.

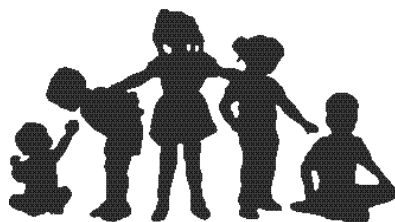
There were some favorable accomplishments for children this year, including the rejection of the Governor's effort to eliminate CalWORKs cash assistance for 200,000 impoverished children; enhanced public disclosure of information regarding child deaths caused by abuse or neglect; a mandate that counties screen each youth in foster care between the ages of 16 and a half and 17 and a half in order to determine whether the youth is eligible for federal SSI benefits; and the modest but important expansion of funding for the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) Program, which provides affordable housing and comprehensive support services for up to 24 months to help former foster care and probation youth ages 18 to 24 make a successful transition to independent living. However, in these areas and others impacting children, much that was attempted died in process, much was weakened, and much was left undone.

This *Report Card* is intended to educate and inform you of your legislators' actions on a selection of bills that would have benefited children if enacted. This *Report Card* cannot tell you all there is to know about your elected officials. Accordingly, we urge you to communicate frequently with them so they know your expectations of them for California's children.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Fellmeth  
Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Institute



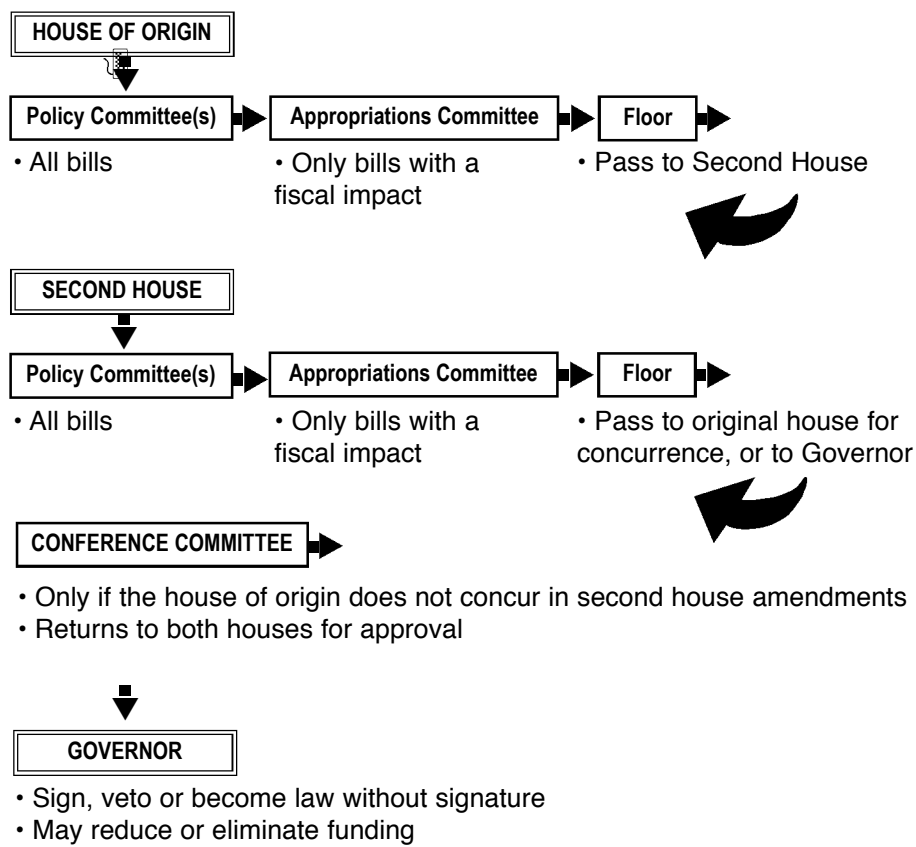
**Dedicated to the Memory of  
PAUL MANNING,  
Husband, Father, Artist, Writer,  
and Child Advocate.**

A Primer

# THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

After introduction by a legislator, a bill is heard in the appropriate policy committee(s), and if it has a fiscal impact is then heard in the Appropriations Committee in the house of origin (either Assembly or Senate). If a bill passes those committees, it is next voted upon by all members of that house (the “floor vote”). If the bill passes a floor vote in the house of origin, it then goes to the other house and begins the process all over again (policy committee(s), Appropriations Committee, and floor vote). At any of these points, the bill may be changed or “amended.” If the bill is amended in the second house, it must return for a second vote on the floor of the house of origin (the “concurrence vote”).

Once a bill passes both houses of the Legislature (and, if necessary, passes a concurrence vote in the house of origin), the Governor may sign it into law, veto it, or take no action within the constitutionally-prescribed time limit, thereby allowing it to become law without his/her signature. The only change a Governor may make in a bill, without sending it back to the Legislature, is to reduce or eliminate the money allocated in the bill.



## 2007 Children's Legislative Report Card

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### POLITICAL CONTEXT

While it is tempting to try to impose a coherent narrative on the 2007 legislative year by attributing this bill or that bill, or the absence of this or that bill, to the determined effort by legislative leaders to secure extensions of their terms at the ballot box, that narrative would only partially be true.

It is true that the Speaker, pro Tem and other legislative leaders hoped to extend their terms. It is true that they hoped to showcase a major legislative accomplishment going into the special election in February. And it is true that the two showcase efforts — health care and redistricting reform — consumed a vast amount of top-level staff time and emphasis, to the possible detriment of other priorities.

But where health care is concerned, the Governor, legislative leaders, and their staffs are also rightly impelled by the dismal human and economic consequences of an irrational, needlessly expensive, and inhumane health care system; one that leaves 800,000 California children uninsured and hence disadvantaged in school and life and, almost as bad, cruelly diverts the financial resources and spirit of their parents away from what is required to raise them.

The Republican Governor's very public commitment to health care reform offers an unusual, maybe once-in-a-generation opportunity for a broad, bi-partisan reform in an area that cries out for radical reform. Thus, it is difficult to argue that legislative and executive branch leaders were wrong to try and seize this opportunity, even if it merely births a mouse.

Best for children would be instituting a pure presumptive eligibility system as suggested by the Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI). Mirroring the way a business would approach the problem, CAI's proposal would allow children to show up at any physician's office and the physician would know that he/she would be paid, either by the state or by a private insurer. What makes this system sensible is the fact that the vast majority of the 800,000 uninsured children are already eligible for Healthy Families or Medi-Cal. Less than 3% of the state's children are uncovered privately and ineligible for public coverage. Spending tens of millions of dollars in health care bureaucracy to screen their eligibility costs taxpayers and makes no sense. It costs more than simply (i) allowing the child to receive care and (ii) checking on the child's eligibility once the costs of their care exceeds the cost of checking up on the child's eligibility. When that point is reached, the CAI plan would bill the parent on a sliding scale if the child was found to be ineligible for public programs, or subrogate to their insurer if they were covered privately.

Children cost 1/7th the amount adults cost to cover and receive health insurance in every developed nation in the world. Every American senior has guaranteed single payer health care: Medicare. Even the Iraqi Constitution provides for child's health

insurance. But the authors of the two modest expansions of child's health care — Assemblymember Laird and Senator Steinberg — had their bills placed on hold while leadership chased what appeared to be a politically shaky and legally suspect broader health care reform.

In pointed contrast to the State's failure, more than thirty counties have expanded child health coverage beyond federal or state lines on their own limited dime, reflecting a social conscience beyond the apparent reach of state legislative performance to date.

More than health care reform, more than the crisis in prisons, it is the ongoing effect of legislative term limits, the constraining effects of the two-thirds voting requirement for the appropriations and budget, and the distorting effects of how political campaigns are funded that explain why our Legislature and Governor act the way they do where children are concerned.

In a dysfunctional and distorted system, where the very architecture of state government distracts leaders from essential nitty-gritty issues resolved without immediate and tangible political benefits, those who cannot vote, who do not contribute, and who do not protest will get tossed around in the storm, their progress mostly consigned to good bills enacted at the margins of far bigger problems.

So each year — with this being no exception — California's children fall further behind at minimum by standing still.

Dysfunctional or no, the State's moral obligation to our children endures and elected officials are rightly judged by the same litmus as we judge the gallantry of those on a sinking ship, where children are the first slotted for survival.

### ***Term Limits***

The state finally felt the full brunt of term limits this year. Fully 30% of the Assembly in 2007 was comprised of new members. What this means is simply this: if you take the freshman members from this year and the last, there are a very large number "arguably a majority" of elected members of our state congress who, compared with the predecessors, have less experience and lack the institutional memory to pierce recently rejected arguments of lobbyists. Those lobbyists largely represent profit-stake interests and are free to restart self-interested projects every several years notwithstanding recent rejection. Legislative independence is also hampered by two other dynamics: the restrictions of the term limit initiative on allowable legislative spending for its own independent staff, and growing post-legislative jobs by both former staff and legislators as private lobbyists. Power in Sacramento has, within the Legislature, shifted away from members and committee chairs, and toward the overall party leadership of the respective houses. But even here, term limits radically restrict continuity and the independent imprint of elected officials, and influence primarily rests within the domain of the 1,200 registered lobbyists.

### ***Minority Rule***

A faction that cannot earn a majority of seats in our Legislature has veto power over the fiscal destiny of the world's sixth largest economy. The two-thirds requirement

offers legislative Republicans the fruits of a majority without their having to appeal to center-oriented voters to get it. Thus, while the Governor has a veto power, he must be elected by the entire state. In contrast, the Republican members of the Legislature enjoy a similar veto power on fiscal matters but answer only to their “base” and their constituents who wield power far in excess of their numbers.

This means that those who cannot win elections — whose views on child welfare, for example, may be far out of the mainstream — can nevertheless dictate child welfare policy, at least in the negative. The consequences of this anti-majoritarianism hits the most vulnerable most directly — children. Because of this requirement, it takes a two-thirds vote to repeal a special interest tax break, even one that might have laudable aims but that should be suspended during budget shortfalls that cripple consensus higher moral priorities.

### ***Campaign Funding***

It takes millions of dollars to run for even modest offices in California. Most candidates cannot self-fund, so they are entirely dependent on monied interests for their political viability and success. Special interests do not pour millions into the coffers of politicians for charitable purposes; they expect to have their priority be the politician’s priority, especially where the distribution of state money is concerned. In a very real sense, elected officials cannot say no to special interests (or cannot say no to them too often) and expect to be politicians for very long.

Relatedly, one of the chief ways that legislative leaders become legislative leaders is by proving their prowess at fundraising for their caucus. The Chairs of the Assembly Committees were largely provided to new members on the basis of how much they contributed to the funds under the control of the Speaker.

Money will not assure you success in Sacramento, but it vastly increases your chances.

### **FISCAL CONTEXT**

We now know that last year’s \$10 billion deficit was just an unwelcome preview of this year’s gaping \$14 billion main feature.

One of the State’s longest budget stalemates ended on August 21. The Assembly had approved a budget a month earlier that included a grab bag of special interest tax breaks; the Senate rejected that proposal. The final budget passed by the Legislature rejected many of the Governor’s proposed money-saving cuts. For example, the Legislature rejected the Governor’s efforts to freeze income eligibility for child care assistance and rejected his proposal to eliminate cash assistance to 200,000 children in the CalWORKs program, a particularly short-sighted proposal.

Yet, in order to garner the two-thirds necessary for passage, the Governor promised to use his line-item veto to reduce spending by \$700 million. Programs that benefit children were among those vetoed, including \$15 million slashed for outreach to enroll

children in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families and \$2.8 million purportedly slated to help prevent foster youth identity theft and help adopted children locate their siblings.<sup>1</sup> The Governor has also ordered his agencies to cut 10% from their current budgets in advance of the expected deficit.

But about \$4 billion of the current \$14 billion deficit is of the Governor's own making, when he rescinded the increase of the vehicle license fee imposed by his predecessor without any apparent consideration of the fiscal consequences. Interestingly, the Governor recently signed a bill that hikes the license fee to fund pollution control programs, a precedent that should not be ignored where raising revenue for children is concerned.

The State's fiscal situation is frequently used as an excuse for lack of progress on child welfare. But this is a ruse. First, the State has faced far worse. In 1990, for example, the General Fund was about \$50 billion with a \$14 billion shortfall, a ratio far worse than our projected 10% shortfall next year. Second, the structural deficit of about \$5 billion has not prevented the Legislature and the Governor from funding other more vocal priorities such as \$75 million for the special election in February to extend term limits, when an election was slated already for June, or massive expenditures for prison construction. On the final night of the session, every possible rule was waived to move a bill that would have provided a hefty raise to prison guards.

That it is impossible to imagine such a thing happening on behalf of California's 77,000 foster children is all you need to know about how politics works in Sacramento where money is concerned.

All of this is especially tragic in light of the ever-burgeoning bankroll of the mental health fund established by Proposition 63, which imposed a modest tax on Californians earning more than \$250,000 annually. The mental health needs of "transition age youth" are specifically mentioned in the initiative and sadly almost all former foster youth would qualify as either mentally ill or at-risk. More than \$1 billion has accumulated in the corpus of Prop. 63 fund, yet the needs of transition age foster youth are so far largely being ignored by the counties where decisions about Prop. 63 spending are largely made.

Here is one way to measure the potential of the Prop. 63 funds. By operation of state law, foster children are tossed into the streets at age 18. Many steal or turn tricks just to survive. An astonishing 40% of our homeless population are former foster youth, who represent about 0.04% of the population. The median amount American parents spend on their children after they reach 18 years of age is \$42,000. Foster children have the state as their parent. Approximately \$160 million each year would provide comparable support for the children emancipating from state parentage. Just the interest on the \$1 billion would be fairly close to righting this wrong.

But once again, foster youth do not have lobbyists that can represent them at hearings in the 58 counties. Just as in Sacramento, foster youth appear to be losing where Prop. 63 is concerned because of their lack of political power.

<sup>1</sup> Child advocates question why \$2.8 million was slated for these efforts in the first place, as both were extremely low-cost measures. The Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis on AB 2488 (Leno), which attempts to make it easier for adoptees to locate biological siblings, estimated that the demand for such assistance would be minimal and "any costs associated with an increased workload should be absorbable." The Senate Appropriations Committee analysis on AB 2985 (Maze), regarding foster youth identity theft, estimated the bill's costs to be \$120,000 a year.



Tragic too is the state of education funding. California endures as being in the bottom half of spending per pupil on education and still ranks at the near bottom in class size and the bottom half of the nation in spending per child. Proposition 98, which guarantees that a minimum amount of General Fund spending be devoted to public education, has become a ceiling instead of a floor, effectively closing off any debate about additional, much-needed funding. There are fewer community college to university “slots” per 18-year-old now than in 1991 when such slots are needed to make ever-more expensive four year colleges affordable. And arguably one of the State’s signature achievements – the Cal State and University of California universities – inch by inch become out of reach as fees inexorably climb and as the cost of raising a child in California to majority soars above \$50,000, not including retirement and college financing.

Where child poverty is concerned, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits continue to decline in real terms with cost-of-living increases denied year after year. Moreover, while CalWORKs implementation of the federal Personal Responsibility Act (PRA) welfare reform law has laudably put some parents to work, children of other parents have been plunged into even deeper poverty as a disturbing number of parents lack both employment and public assistance to aid their children. TANF and Food Stamps benefits – together the key safety net for poor California children – are now at about 60% of the federal poverty line; a record low. Even so, unlike New York, California does not have an earned income tax credit, despite the fact that such credits are among the most effective and inexpensive ways to ameliorate child poverty.

As all of these examples reveal, we are to a very real degree balancing the budget on the backs of children: failing to spend the money required to enroll them in health insurance plan they are by law eligible for; failing to redress grotesque differences in the quality of education; utterly failing transition age foster youth who are still in the main kicked out into the streets as an eighteenth birthday present, forced to steal or enter the sex trade to survive; increasing the fees and tuition paid by our youth; enacting bonds and entering into long-term retirement obligations that burden their futures, etc., all the while failing to ask the adults who pay taxes to make any sacrifice even though they have nation-wide enjoyed upwards of \$37 billion in tax breaks from the cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003.

Policymakers are balancing this and future budgets on the backs of children not because children deserve fewer resources, but because children have fewer resources — resources of the kind that electeds heed. This is the only reason children are always the Omega when they should be the Alpha, and that says nothing good about us as a state or as a community.

## **2007 NOTABLE LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES FOR CHILDREN**

Arguably the most noteworthy “victory” – if it can be called that – is that the Governor did not succeed in getting substantial cuts in children’s programs as a way of balancing the budget. If avoiding a cut can be called a victory, then certainly turning aside the Governor’s effort to take money literally out of the hands of 200,000 impoverished children by eliminating their CalWORKs cash assistance is arguably the year’s most noteworthy accomplishment.

Other noteworthy accomplishments include:

•**SB 39 (Migden).** This CAI-sponsored bill could revolutionize the way we hold state and local governments accountable for the deaths of children caused by abuse or neglect. Before SB 39, in order to obtain the barest information revealing the circumstances underlying the death of a child, members of the public had to file a full-blown lawsuit. Worse, the statutes providing the opportunity to sue were ambiguous, providing recalcitrant counties ample opportunity to drive up litigation costs, delay the disclosure of unpleasant facts until after public attention had waned, and generally frustrating efforts to hold governments accountable. SB 39 will allow for a broad degree of administrative disclosure and has streamlined the petition process, making it truer to the purposes for which it was enacted in the first place.

•**AB 1331 (Evans).** This bill requires a county to screen each foster youth in foster care who is at least 16 years and 6 months of age and not older than 17 years and 6 months of age in order to determine whether the youth is eligible for federal SSI benefits. Too many youth transition out of foster care without obtaining the federal benefits they are owed. However, the bill would make compliance with this requirement contingent upon the ability of the county to use state AFDC-FC resources for the foster youth pending the application for federal benefits.

•**SB 241 (Kuehl).** This bill requires a court, if a child ward or proposed ward is furnished legal counsel for a guardianship proceeding, to determine whether the parent or parents or the estate of the ward is financially unable to pay all or a portion of the cost of appointed counsel. The bill requires that any portion of the cost of that counsel that the court finds the parents or the estate of the ward is unable to pay be paid by the county.

•**THP-Plus Extension and Expansion.** The Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) Program provides affordable housing and comprehensive support services for up to 24 months to help former foster care and probation youth ages 18 to 24 make a successful transition to independent living. The program is administered by the state Department of Social Services, which distributes THP-Plus funds to counties. The county department of social services then provides the services directly or contracts for services with nonprofit THP-Plus providers. The Governor's Budget included \$35.7 million for this Program and an additional \$10.5 million reimbursement for the counties on program-related expenses last year. The additional money will allow over 1,000 former foster youth to take advantage of THP-Plus — which highlights the good news and bad news about the program. The good news is that the program is truly comprehensive, providing welcome aid to former foster youth. The bad news is that the program is extremely expensive, costing over all between \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year per youth when many youth may want a less restrictive, more flexible (and less costly) alternative. The expense of the program means that for the foreseeable future, THP-Plus will reach just a fraction of the transition age foster youth population. Moreover, not all former foster youth require the intensive therapeutic services provided by the Program.

Hence, CAI's Transition Guardian Plan approach is still a required option that the state must offer. Under the Plan, a transition age foster youth has a trustee appointed by a court, and the three of them together craft a plan to spend the corpus over time as-needed, just as a parent or guardian would.

This plan — far less expensive than THP-Plus — would attract those youth who have understandably had enough of the system and who now confront what is for them a Hobson's choice: live in a placement that may not be right for them or face homelessness if self-sufficiency is the aim.

•**SB 783 (Torlakson).** Children are uniquely vulnerable to dangerous amusement park attractions. In 1999 CAI was instrumental in securing passage of the Permanent Amusement Inspection Safety Program which, among other things, requires inspections, employee training, and reporting of serious accidents to the State. This bill extends these same protections to carnivals and other settings where amusement rides are temporary.

But, of course, with nearly one million children uninsured although eligible for healthy Families or Medi-Cal; with the foster care system in crisis because of foster parents fleeing the system due in part to inadequate reimbursement rates; with the State still tolerating the inhumane policy of evicting abused and neglected children to the street to fend for themselves on their eighteenth birthday; with the State still tolerating a *Plessy v. Ferguson* like division in performance between schools in wealthy communities and those in underprivileged ones; with child support collections still too low; and with no pathway in sight to re-orient our legislative priorities to match our familial ones such that children are taken care of first, it is hard to classify any of the above bills — good as they may be — as victories that will transform the lives of children right now.

## WORK UNFINISHED

Some noteworthy examples of bills that failed passage include:

•**AB 273 (Jones).** For the second year in a row, the Senate Appropriations Committee killed a bill that would have required annual check-ups for foster children who, by definition, are abused and neglected.

•**AB 324 (Beall).** Foster parenting is in crisis, with the number of foster parents plummeting 30% statewide in the last few years. This is in part due to the fact that foster parents have not received an increase in reimbursements since 2001. This steep decline translates into children having to be placed in more expensive group institutions. So in sum, this policy is worse for abused and neglected children and more expensive for taxpayers. AB 324 would have raised foster parents' reimbursement 5% while creating a program to train and retain foster parents. Although the 5% increase was included in the budget, it was expanded to apply to all caregivers, and the rest of the bill — far more meaningful for foster children than the modest \$25 a month reimbursement increase — was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

The failure of this bill prompted CAI to file suit in federal court challenging the State's low foster parent reimbursement rates.

•**AB 1330 (Evans).** This bill required the Department of Social Services to collect and maintain data on all youth in foster care that are prescribed psychotropic medication. At a recent informational hearing foster youth shared disturbing stories of their experiences with medication while in care. Those stories have suggested that psychotropic medication is used as a behavioral control mechanism rather than for treatment and that there is little medical oversight of their usage. They often point to the use of the medication within group care as an example of abuse of the medication. The bill died in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

•**AB 1578 (Leno).** This measure would have enacted the Foster Youth Higher Education Preparation and Support Act of 2007. The bill would have provided current or former foster youth in their first year of postsecondary enrollment would be eligible for tuition and fee coverage under the Cal Grant B program (typically, only “access” awards are provided in the first year). This bill would also have enacted the California College Pathways Program to be administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), for the purposes of providing comprehensive support to current or former foster youth attending public postsecondary institutions of higher learning.

The greatest work that endures as unfinished is not reflected in the failure of these or other measures. Advocates and their legislative allies now self-select failure by not even introducing bills that would expend the resources required to meaningfully improve the lot of children dramatically. Hence, “big” bills to reverse education inequality, to provide the barest of safety nets for foster youth tossed into the street on their eighteenth birthday, to provide comprehensive health insurance for all children as a right, to provide intensive help to juvenile offenders to divert them from a lifetime of crime, all cry out for legislative action, yet there is none and none in sight as a Legislature deformed by various initiated efforts to reform it lurches from one budget crisis to another while children wait and wait for the kind of priority they morally deserve but politically — because they are, after all, children — will never be able to muster alone.

## Subjects Graded

# 2007 BILLS

### POVERTY

**AB 176 (Jones)** implements child support program options and mandates contained in the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Specifically, the bill requires that local child support agencies review at least once every three years and, if appropriate, modify child support orders for families receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) benefits. It further requires, effective October 12, 2009, that a family no longer be mandated to assign its rights to past-due child support that accrued before receiving cash assistance when the family applies for cash assistance.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 538 (Emmerson)** provides a sales and use tax exemption for new children's clothing sold to a nonprofit organization for free distribution to children, if the nonprofit organization has exempt status, as specified.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 8, 2007 (Chapter 317, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 1078 (Lieber)** seeks to maximize the ability of CalWORKs program recipients to realize and maintain cash savings to assist them in achieving independence. The bill adopts several measures to promote earnings and assets of CalWORKs recipients, including maximum use of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, exclusion of specified retirement accounts as assets for applicants, and added information for participants in grant-based on-the-job training programs.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 13, 2007 (Chapter 622, Statutes of 2007).

### NUTRITION

**SB 120 (Padilla)** would have required restaurant chains with at least 14 branches (including franchises) to make specified nutritional information available for all standard menu items. With specified exceptions, the measure would have required the following information for each menu item to include, but not be limited to (a) number of calories, (b) grams of saturated fat, (c) grams of trans fat, (d) number of carbohydrates, and (e) milligrams of sodium. The bill was aimed at helping Californians — including children — make healthy eating choices while dining out.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger on October 14, 2007.

**SB 490 (Alquist)** prohibits schools and school districts from making available through vending machines or school food establishments foods containing artificial trans fat, as defined, or from using food containing artificial trans fat in the preparation of a food item served to pupils enrolled in elementary or middle schools. The health dangers of trans fat are well known, and, given the availability of alternatives in the preparation of food, there is no reason to subject school children to a substance known to be exceedingly harmful when ingested.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 13, 2007 (Chapter 648, Statutes of 2007).

## **HEALTH / SAFETY**

**AB 834 (Hayashi)** would have encouraged the renewal or amendment of local dental contracts to maximize the number of children served and to improve community dental disease prevention programs. Less than 5% of children eligible for community dental disease prevention programs receive services, and children in poverty are twice as likely to develop cavities and suffer from toothaches. This bill would have encouraged the draw-down of federal dollars into the program through billing for services covered by Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Further, the bill would have promoted parental involvement in ensuring their children's oral health by educating them about the causes of tooth decay.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger on October 10, 2007.

**SB 468 (Padilla)** would have established the Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Pilot Program for up to 10 counties who volunteer to provide public education on shaken baby syndrome. The bill would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS), in consultation with the Department of Public Health, to establish the pilot no later than July 1, 2009 and to evaluate the program and report to the Legislature on its success by January 1, 2013. A similar program in a New York region reduced the incidence of shaken baby syndrome by almost 50% over five years, and supporters believe that a three-year pilot program in up to 10 counties, coordinated by an entity selected by DSS, would reduce the incidence of shaken baby syndrome in this state.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Senate but died in the Assembly Appropriations suspense file.

**SB 783 (Torlakson)** extends current provisions for permanent amusement rides under the Permanent Amusement Safety Inspection Program to the Amusement Rides Safety Law relating to temporary (portable) amusement rides. Among other things, the measure increases the minimum policy of insurance required to \$1 million per occurrence, beginning January 1, 2009; requires that training on the safe operation and maintenance of rides, as specified, be provided by the owner of an amusement ride to its employees; requires the owner of an amusement ride to maintain all records necessary to show requirements have been met; requires immediate reporting of specified accidents by telephone with a written follow-up (within 24 hours); requires that equipment suspected of having caused an incident be preserved for

investigation; and imposes on an owner or operator a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for willful or intentional violations.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 478, Statutes of 2007).

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

**AB 149 (Bass)** would have required DSS to enter into a contract for technology to assist counties in searching for relatives to serve as caretakers for foster children and youth and create two pilot projects to assist counties in identifying family members, while helping family members understand and navigate the system of out-of-home care. Because children in foster care who are placed with relatives generally experience fewer placements, fare better emotionally and physically, perform better in school, and maintain a higher level connection to their culture and family, the bill sought to promote the primacy of family caregiver placements.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger on October 11, 2007.

**AB 273 (Jones)** would have required children removed from their homes as a result of abuse or neglect and children removed from their homes as a result of being “delinquent minors” to receive specified Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program health assessments and oral health services. The bill also would have required the Department of Health Care Services, to the extent federal financial participation is available, to extend Medi-Cal benefits to “independent foster care adolescents,” as defined, while in foster care or guardianship, until the child reaches the age of 21 years, as specified.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Assembly but died in the Senate Appropriations suspense file.

**AB 277 (Soto)** embodied several recommendations of DSS’ Children’s Residential Regulation Review Workgroup, which has been reviewing the state’s foster care licensing regulations in order to eliminate provisions that do not promote a family like environment, as well as those that serve as barriers to preparing foster youth for life as independent adults. The fundamental goal is to ensure that foster youth are placed in the most family-like settings. As part of the regulation review, the participants identified issues that require legislative action, and included those issues in this bill. Among other things, the bill would have increased from 8 to 12 the annual number of postplacement training hours that a foster parent must complete to retain eligibility for foster child placements; specified that the postplacement annual training include courses that cover the dependency court process, the participation of foster children and foster parents in the court process, permanency options for foster children, and supports available to foster parents that provide permanent placements for foster children; specified that each community college district with a foster care education program make available orientation and training programs for relatives and nonrelative extended family members that cover the dependency court process and participation by foster children and foster parents in the court process; and required the county child welfare agency to provide to a foster caregiver or rela-

tive or nonrelative extended family member caregiver a plan outlining the child's needs and services within 30 days of the child's placement.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger on October 12, 2007.

**AB 298 (Maze)** provides support and priority for relative caregivers of children under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Specifically, this bill provides that a relative caregiver's preference for legal guardianship over adoption cannot constitute the sole basis for the social services agency or licensed county adoption agency to recommend removal of the child from the relative caregiver for purposes of adoption, provided the relative is not unwilling to accept legal or financial responsibility for the child; requires that a relative caregiver be given information regarding permanency options; provides that the juvenile court, in order to provide stable, permanent homes for children under its jurisdiction, shall consider, in order of preference, a) terminating parental rights and proceeding with adoption; b) appointing a relative caregiver with whom the child is currently residing as the child's legal guardian; c) ordering efforts made to locate an appropriate adoptive family; d) appointing a nonrelative guardian for the child; or e) ordering the child placed in long-term foster care; requires a court, prior to termination of a legal guardianship, to order the county child welfare agency to evaluate whether the child could safely remain in or be returned to the guardian's home if services were provided to the child or guardian and, if appropriate, to identify recommended family maintenance or reunification services to maintain the legal guardianship; and provides that if a guardianship of a minor is established with a relative, the relative is eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP program.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 12, 2007 (Chapter 565, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 340 (Hancock)** creates the Unified Resource Family Approvals Pilot Project in up to five counties, which will allow county welfare departments to merge duplicative foster placement processes for licensing and approving relatives, foster families, and adoptive parents, in order to streamline the approval of adoptive families.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 464, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 369 (Solorio)** requires the Department of Justice to make available to a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program that is conducting a background investigation of an applicant seeking employment or a volunteer position with the program information contained in the Child Abuse Central Index regarding known or suspected child abuse. This bill will allow CASA programs to learn about allegations of abuse and neglect, and inquire about the circumstances before they authorize individuals to work with children in foster care.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on July 30, 2007 (Chapter 160, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 402 (Ma)**, among other things, expands Proposition 13's inter-familial tax exemption to include foster children.



**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 10, 2007 (Chapter 450, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 714 (Maze)** allows child welfare agencies to search for birth families and, if located, release information to them about a child who had been adopted out of the foster care system, but, for various reasons, the adoption has fallen through, provided that such action will promote the child's welfare.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on July 20, 2007 (Chapter 108, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 1331 (Evans)** requires counties to screen potentially disabled emancipating foster youth to determine their potential eligibility for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits and to make applications for those who may be eligible. Getting disabled foster youth on SSI will help ensure that when disabled foster youth emancipate out of care they will have some semblance of a financial safety net.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 464, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 1453 (Soto)** directs DSS to develop a plan to transform the current statewide system of group homes into a system of residentially based services and, in the interim, permits some counties to enter into voluntary agreements with private nonprofit agencies to transform individual group home programs. The bill's sponsor, the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, states that in order to obtain better outcomes and shorter lengths of stay for youth in foster care group homes, it is necessary to allow DSS to authorize interested counties to enter into voluntary agreements with private nonprofit agencies to test alternative program designs and cost-neutral funding models.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 466, Statutes of 2007).

**AB 1512 (Torrico)** requires the expedited disenrollment of a foster child from a county organized health system, when that child has received out-of-county placement, to allow the child to be enrolled in Medi-Cal fee-for-service or managed care in the county where the child has been placed. Allowing expedited disenrollment means that foster children will not have to suffer unnecessary delays in treatment and will not be forced to navigate bureaucracies in order to get health care.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 467, Statutes of 2007).

**SB 39 (Migden)** provides for the release by a county welfare agency of specified information regarding a deceased child where the death is reasonably suspected to be the result of abuse or neglect, within five days of the child's death. Where a child's death is substantiated to be from abuse or neglect, the bill establishes a process for the release of specified documents in a county welfare agency's juvenile case file, without court review, and for the release of other documents in

the case file after a petition is filed and opportunity is given for interested parties to object to the release of those other documents. The bill clarifies existing law relating to the release of a juvenile case file when a child has died due to abuse or neglect, including the presumption of disclosure unless statutory grounds for non- or partial-disclosure or redaction of information exist. The bill also contains legislative declarations and findings regarding the need for quicker access to information contained in a juvenile case file where a child died as a result of abuse or neglect.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 468, Statutes of 2007).

**SB 241 (Kuehl)** requires the court, in a guardianship proceeding where the court has appointed counsel for the minor, to determine whether the parent or parents of the minor are financially unable to pay all or a portion of the cost of appointed counsel, and to order the county to pay that portion of the cost of appointed counsel that the parent or parents are unable to pay. The bill requires the Judicial Council to adopt financial eligibility guidelines for county payment of the court-appointed counsel for the minor.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 14, 2007 (Chapter 719, Statutes of 2007).

**SB 785 (Steinberg)** facilitates the access to mental health services for foster children who are placed outside of the original county of jurisdiction, including those being adopted or entering into a guardianship with a relative.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 469, Statutes of 2007).

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

**AB 1300 (Price)** expands the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Division of Juvenile Justice's purpose to include the provision of comprehensive education to youth offenders to promote family ties, communication restoration, and accountability to victims. Also, this bill requires that proximity to family be considered when the Division is considering the transfer of a ward from one institution or facility to another.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 11, 2007 (Chapter 458, Statutes of 2007).

**SB 518 (Migden)** enacts a Youth Bill of Rights for incarcerated youth, as specified, and imposes specified requirements on the Division related to the rights of youthful offenders. The bill recognizes the right of incarcerated youth to live in a safe, healthy, and clean environment conducive to treatment and rehabilitation and where they are treated with dignity and respect; to be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment; to receive adequate and healthy food and water, sufficient personal hygiene items, and clothing that is adequate and clean; to receive adequate and appropriate medical, dental, vision, and mental health ser-

vices; to refuse the administration of psychotropic and other medications consistent with applicable law or unless immediately necessary for the preservation of life or the prevention of serious bodily harm; to not be searched for the purpose of harassment or humiliation or as a form of discipline or punishment; to maintain frequent and continuing contact with parents, guardians, siblings, children, and extended family members, through visits, telephone calls, and mail; to make and receive confidential telephone calls, send and receive confidential mail, and have confidential visits with attorneys and their authorized representatives, ombudspersons and other advocates, holders of public office, state and federal court personnel, and legal service organizations; to have fair and equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and to not be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status; to have regular opportunity for age-appropriate physical exercise and recreation, including time spent outdoors; to contact attorneys, ombudspersons and other advocates, and representatives of state or local agencies, regarding conditions of confinement or violations of rights, and to be free from retaliation for making these contacts or complaints; to participate in religious services and activities of their choice; to not be deprived of any of the following as a disciplinary measure: food, contact with parents, guardians, or attorneys, sleep, exercise, education, bedding, access to religious services, a daily shower, a drinking fountain, a toilet, medical services, reading material, or the right to send and receive mail; to receive a quality education that complies with state law, to attend age-appropriate school classes and vocational training, and to continue to receive educational services while on disciplinary or medical status; to attend all court hearings pertaining to them; to have counsel and a prompt probable cause hearing when detained on probation or parole violations; and to make at least two free telephone calls within an hour after initially being placed in a facility of the Division of Juvenile Facilities following an arrest.

**STATUS:** This measure was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 13, 2007 (Chapter 649, Statutes of 2007).

## How Legislators Were Graded

# METHODOLOGY

All the bills included in this *Report Card* would improve current law for children. An “AYE” vote on these measures represents a vote for children and is indicated by a “★.” “NO” votes and abstentions are noted with a “–,” indicating the legislator was not there for children. Abstentions count against a legislator’s score because a legislator who fails to vote effectively votes “NO.” In cases where a legislator had an excused absence when the floor vote was taken (for illness, legislative business, etc.), the vote will be noted with a “–\*” but will count as a “NO” vote for purposes of the legislator’s total grade. Bills held in the suspense file of the Senate or Assembly Appropriations Committee will be noted with “–\*\*”; for our purposes, each and every legislator’s failure to pull the bill from suspense qualifies as a “NO.” Vacancies in a legislative seat are noted with a “V.”

- ★ means **A VOTE FOR CHILDREN**  
(an “AYE” vote)
- means **NOT THERE FOR CHILDREN**  
(a “no” vote or abstention; counts as a NO vote)
- \* means **EXCUSED ABSENCE**  
(illness, legislative business, etc.; counts as a NO vote)
- \*\* means **HELD IN SUSPENSE**  
(counts as a NO vote)
- V means **VACANT SEAT**

The *2007 Children’s Legislative Report Card* evaluates final floor votes on selected bills affecting children. When bills were amended in the second house, the concurrence vote in the house of origin was used to compute those legislators’ scores, so that comparing Senate and Assembly votes on the same bills will reflect votes on the same version of the bill.

Legislators’ overall scores indicate the percentage of affirmatively cast votes for children on the legislation presented. Votes and attendance were tallied from the Assembly and Senate Daily Journals and the Legislative Counsel’s website ([www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)).

	Legislator	POVERTY			NUTRITION			HEALTH/SAFETY				CHILD PROTECTION			
		AB 176 (Jones)	AB 538 (Emmerson)	AB 1078 (Lieber)		SB 120 (Padilla)	SB 490 (Alquist)		AB 834 (Hayashi)	SB 119 (Cedillo)	SB 783 (Torlakson)		AB 149 (Bass)	AB 273 (Jones)	AB 277 (Soto)
SENATORS	Aanestad	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	★	
	Ackerman	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	★	
	Alquist	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Ashburn	★	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	★	
	Battin	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-*	-	-	-	-**	★	
	Calderon	-	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Cedillo	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Cogdill	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	★	
	Corbett	★	-*	★	★	★	-*	-*	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Correa	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Cox	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	★	
	Denham	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	★	-	-	-**	★	
	Ducheny	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Dutton	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	★	-	-	-**	-	
	Florez	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Harman	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	★	
	Hollingsworth	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	-	
	Kehoe	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Kuehl	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Lowenthal	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Machado	★	★	★	-	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Maldonado	★	★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Margett	★	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	★	
	McClintock	★	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	★	
	Migden	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Negrete McLeod	★	★	★	-	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Oropeza	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Padilla	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Perata	-	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Ridley-Thomas	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Romero	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
	Runner	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-**	-	
	Scott	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	-	
	Simitian	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	
Steinberg	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★		
Torlakson	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★		
Vincent	-	-*	★	-	-*	-*	-*	★	-*	★	★	-**	★		
Wiggins	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★		
Wyland	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	★	-	-	-**	★		
Yee	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★		
ASSEMBLYMEMBERS	Adams	★	★	-	-	-	★	-**	★	-	★	★			
	Aghazarian	★	★	-	-	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Anderson	★	★	-	-	-	★	-**	★	-	-	★			
	Arambula	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Bass	-	-	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Beall	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Benoit	★	★	-	-	-	★	-**	★	-	★	★			
	Berg	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Berryhill	★	★	-	-	-	★	-**	★	-	★	★			
	Blakeslee	★	★	-	-	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Brownley	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Caballero	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Calderon	★	★	★	-	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Carter	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Cook	★	★	-	-	-	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Coto	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	Davis	★	★	★	★	★	★	-**	★	★	-	★			
	De la Torre	★	★	★	-	★	★	-**	★	★	★	★			
	De Leon	★	★	★	★	★	-	-**	★	★	★	★			

★ : A VOTE FOR CHILDREN (an "aye" vote)

- : NOT THERE FOR CHILDREN (a "no" vote or abstention)

	AB 298 (Maze)	AB 340 (Hancock)	AB 369 (Solorio)	AB 402 (Ma)	AB 714 (Maze)	AB 1331 (Evans)	AB 1453 (Soto)	AB 1512 (Torricono)	SB 39 (Migden)	SB 241 (Kuehl)	SB 785 (Steinberg)	JUVENILE JUSTICE	AB 1300 (Price)	SB 518 (Migden)	2007 Votes for Children	2007 Grade	Legislator
	★	—	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	10 of 24	42%	Aanestad
	★	★	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	11 of 24	46%	Ackerman
	★	★	★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Alquist
	★	—	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	11 of 24	46%	Ashburn
	★	★	★	—	—*	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	10 of 24	42%	Battin
	★	★	★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	★	20 of 24	83%	Calderon
	★	★	★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Cedillo
	★	★	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	11 of 24	46%	Cogdill
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—*	★	★		★	★	19 of 24	79%	Corbett
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	—	21 of 24	88%	Correa
	★	—	★	—	★	—	★	★	★	—	★		★	—	11 of 24	46%	Cox
	★	★	★	—	★	—	★	★	★	—	★		★	—	13 of 24	54%	Denham
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Ducheny
	★	★	★	—	★	—	★	★	★	—	★		★	—	12 of 24	50%	Dutton
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Florez
	★	—	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	—	★		★	—	12 of 24	50%	Harman
	★	★	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	10 of 24	42%	Hollingsworth
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Kehoe
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Kuehl
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—	—		★	★	21 of 24	88%	Lowenthal
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	21 of 24	88%	Machado
	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	—	19 of 24	79%	Maldonado
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	13 of 24	54%	Margett
	★	—	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	12 of 24	50%	McClintock
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Migden
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	21 of 24	88%	Negrete McLeod
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Oropeza
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Padilla
	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	20 of 24	83%	Perata
	★	★	★	★	—*	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	★	21 of 24	88%	Ridley-Thomas
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Romero
	★	—	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	9 of 24	38%	Runner
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Scott
	★	★	★	★	—*	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Simitian
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Steinberg
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Torlakson
	—*	—*	★	★	★	★	★	—*	—*	★	—		—*	—	10 of 24	42%	Vincent <sup>1</sup>
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—	★		★	—	21 of 24	88%	Wiggins
	★	★	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	12 of 24	50%	Wyland
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Yee
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	16 of 24	67%	Adams
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	19 of 24	79%	Aghazarian
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	14 of 24	58%	Anderson
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Arambula
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	21 of 24	88%	Bass
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Beall
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	15 of 24	63%	Benoit
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Berg
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	16 of 24	67%	Berryhill
	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	—	19 of 24	79%	Blakeslee
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Brownley
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Caballero
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Calderon
	★	★	—*	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Carter
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	17 of 24	71%	Cook
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Coto
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Davis
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	De la Torre
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	De Leon

—\* : EXCUSED ABSENCE (Counts as a No vote)

—\*\* : HELD IN SUSPENSE (counts as a NO vote)

V : VACANT SEAT

1 : Senator Vincent missed several floor votes due to illness

	Legislator	POVERTY			NUTRITION	HEALTH/SAFETY		CHILD PROTECTION			
		AB 176 (Jones)	AB 538 (Emmerson)	AB 1078 (Lieber)		SB 120 (Padia)	SB 490 (Alquist)		AB 149 (Bass)	AB 273 (Jones)	AB 277 (Soto)
ASSEMBLYMEMBERS	Desaulnier	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Devore	★	★	-		-	-		-	-	★
	Duvall	-	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Dymally	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Emmerson	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Eng	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Evans	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Feuer	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Fuentes	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Fuller	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Gaines	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Galgiani	★	★	★		-	-		★	★	★
	Garcia	★	★	-		-	★		★	★	★
	Garrick	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Hancock	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Hayashi	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Hernandez	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Horton	★	★	-		-	★		★	★	★
	Houston	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Huff	★	★	-		-	-		-	-	★
	Huffman	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Jeffries	★	★	-		-	-		-	-	★
	Jones	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Karnette	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Keene	★	★	-		-	-		★	★	★
	Krekorian	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	La Malfa	★	★	-		-	-		-	-	★
	Laird	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Leno	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Levine	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Lieber	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Lieu	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Ma	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Maze	★	-*	-		-	-		★	★	★
	Mendoza	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Mullin	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Nakanishi	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Nava	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Niello	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Núñez	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Parra	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Plescia	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Portantino	★	★	★		-	★		★	★	★
	Price	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Richardson	V	V	V		V	-*		V	★	V
	Runner	-	★	-		-	-		-	★	-
	Ruskin	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Salas	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Saldaña	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Silva	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Smyth	★	★	-		-	-*		-	★	★
	Solorio	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Soto	★	★	★		★	★		★	-*	★
	Spitzer	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Strickland	-*	-*	-*		-*	-*		-*	★	-
	Swanson	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Torrico	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★
	Tran	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Villines	★	★	-		-	-		-	★	★
	Walters	-	★	-		-	-		-	-	★
	Wolk	★	★	★		★	★		★	★	★

★ : A VOTE FOR CHILDREN (an "aye" vote)

- : NOT THERE FOR CHILDREN (a "no" vote or abstention)

	AB 298 (Maze)	AB 340 (Hancock)	AB 369 (Solorio)	AB 402 (Ma)	AB 714 (Maze)	AB 1331 (Evans)	AB 1453 (Soto)	AB 1512 (Torrice)	SB 39 (Migden)	SB 241 (Kuehl)	SB 785 (Steinberg)	JUVENILE JUSTICE	AB 1300 (Price)	SB 518 (Migden)	2007 Votes for Children	2007 Grade	Legislator
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Desaulnier
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	15 of 24	63%	Devore
	★	★	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	13 of 24	54%	Duvall
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Dymally
	★	★	—	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	15 of 24	63%	Emmerson
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Eng
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Evans
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Feuer
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Fuentes
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	16 of 24	67%	Fuller
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	15 of 24	63%	Gaines
	★	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	20 of 24	83%	Galgiani
	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	—	19 of 24	79%	Garcia
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	15 of 24	63%	Garrick
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Hancock
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Hayashi
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Hernandez
	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	—	19 of 24	79%	Horton
	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	—	17 of 24	71%	Houston
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	14 of 24	58%	Huff
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Huffman
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	15 of 24	63%	Jeffries
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Jones
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Karnette
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	17 of 24	71%	Keene
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Krekorian
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	14 of 24	58%	La Malfa
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Laird
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Leno
	★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Levine
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Lieber
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Lieu
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Ma
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—*	★		★	—	14 of 24	58%	Maze
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Mendoza
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Mullin
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	15 of 24	63%	Nakanishi
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Nava
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	16 of 24	67%	Niello
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	—	—	★	★		★	★	21 of 24	88%	Núñez
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Parra
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	—	★	★		★	—	15 of 24	63%	Plescia
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Portantino
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Price
	V	V	★	V	★	V	V	—*	—*	V	V		—*	V	3 of 8	38%	Richardson
	★	★	★	—	★	—	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	12 of 24	50%	Runner
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Ruskin
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Salas
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Saldaña
	★	★	★	—	—	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	14 of 24	58%	Silva
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	—*	★	—	★		—*	—	13 of 24	54%	Smyth
	★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	—*	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Solorio
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	—	—*	—	★		★	★	19 of 24	79%	Soto
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	★	★		★	—	16 of 24	67%	Spitzer
	—*	—*	★	—*	★	—*	—*	—*	—*	—*	—*		—*	—*	3 of 24	13%	Strickland <sup>2</sup>
	★	★	★	★	—*	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Swanson
	★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	22 of 24	92%	Torrice
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	—*	★	—	★		★	—	16 of 24	67%	Tran
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	15 of 24	63%	Villines
	★	★	★	—	★	★	—	★	★	—	★		★	—	13 of 24	54%	Walters
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★	23 of 24	96%	Wolk

—\* : EXCUSED ABSENCE (Counts as a No vote)

—\*\* : HELD IN SUSPENSE (counts as a NO vote)

V : VACANT SEAT

<sup>2</sup> Assemblymember Strickland missed several floor votes due to maternity leave





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