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2006 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: 2005–06

REPORT CARD TERM: 2006

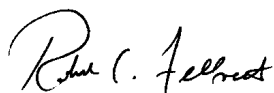
Dear Californians,

This *Report Card* reflects the grades attributed to California legislators for their votes on child-related legislation during the second year of the 2005–06 legislative session. The grades you will see reflect each legislator's votes on 24 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, one of which was killed in the Suspense File of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and one of which was killed in the Suspense File of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. For those measures, each legislator in the house of origin 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 25 total measures.

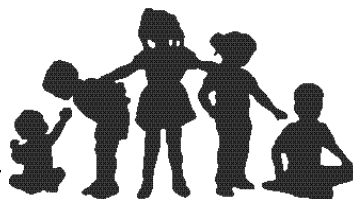
There were some favorable accomplishments for children this year, including an increase in the minimum wage (an important factor affecting child poverty where parents have minimum wage jobs); the restoration of \$4 billion for schools as promised in 2005; increased after-school child care funding; and the removal of some barriers to child health coverage. In the area of child abuse, the Assembly's Select Committee on Foster Care, chaired by Assemblywoman Karen Bass, focused on foster children and their plight, with several related measures achieving passage. 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

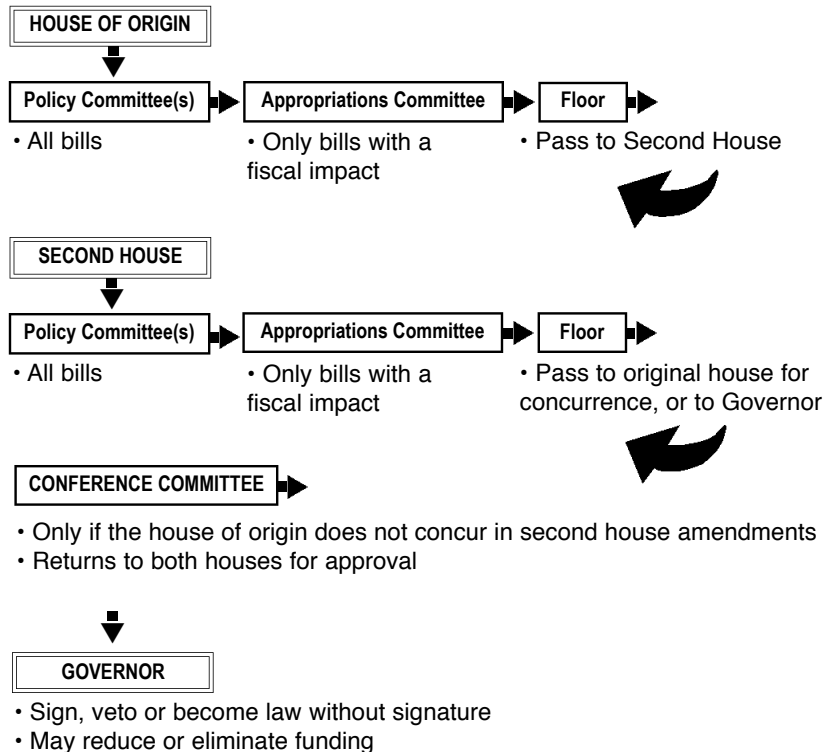


A Primer

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.



Legislative Report Card 2006

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

POLITICAL CONTEXT

The 2006 legislative year was substantially framed by Gubernatorial politics. Governor Schwarzenegger scheduled a special election for November 2005 that consumed over \$70 million in state general funds. He advanced four propositions directed largely at the power of organized labor. They ranged from a redistricting plan that had the support of many good government groups (including Common Cause) to a revision of Proposition 98 that would have effectively removed its existing floor for K–12 education over time, and under its technical terms would have made difficult any education funding increases to match population growth and inflation. The opposition to the Governor was largely fueled by the California Nurses Association and the California Teachers Association. The latter were particularly incensed over the Governor's breach of his promise to restore Proposition 98 required funding for 2005; instead, the Governor reneged and sought to radically alter the standard via initiative vote. Child advocates throughout the state campaigned against the education proposition in particular, mindful of California's status as the state with the nation's second largest class sizes and serious capital underinvestment in public school plant and facilities. The Governor further diminished his reputation by accepting record amounts of special interest funds from large corporations and PACs to finance his proposals—an ironic development given his harsh criticism of similar solicitation practices by former Governor Gray Davis.

Perhaps the most important underlying issue facing future legislatures has to do with a substantial structural deficit inhibiting public spending for children. The deficit is the product of some improvident legislative spending from 2000–02, as the dot.com boom and general fund revenues declined precipitously. But it has been much exacerbated by \$5 billion in new tax breaks for special interests over the last decade, and by the Governor's tax cut of over \$4 billion in vehicle license fee (VLF) revenues—which was misleadingly advertised as a campaign against a tax increase. In fact, the VLF had been in place for decades at 2% of the value of a vehicle, and proceeds funded important local general fund services.

Of paramount concern to child advocates is the Governor's radical insistence that no new tax revenues will be countenanced, although he has imposed substantial increased costs on child- and youth-related programs—ranging from unprecedented tuition and fee higher education increases to medical service co-pays to increased licensing fees for child care providers. Child advocates argue that the federal tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 save California's relatively wealthy taxpayers almost \$37 billion per annum, and that the recapture of just one-fourth of those savings for state investment in children would resolve the structural deficit, while enabling K–12 investment and increase higher education capacity, responsible opportunity for foster children for whom the state is the parent, and universal health coverage for children. Many of these expenditures would yield federal contribution (some at a two to one match) and recapture funds now left on the table in Washington, D.C. However, the Governor and the Legislature have opted instead to maintain deficient revenue, protect tax breaks, and push forward obligation onto future taxpayers through accounting tricks and bond deferral. Hence, more than \$20 billion in tobacco settlement monies due over the next 20 years were sacrificed by the Davis Administration and Legislature—

and instead those future monies are used to finance a bond for here and now general fund and taxpayer relief. And Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature then added another \$20 billion plus in general fund obligation bonds to turn that future source of revenue into a long-term burden on current youth.

Apart from these deferrals, it now appears that California and local governments have made retirement and health care promises to public employees sufficient to create an unfunded liability amounting to over \$200 billion in current dollars. This sum is on top of a federal deficit of \$9 trillion, Social Security underfinancing of \$10 trillion, and Medicare unfunded liability of \$20 trillion. The grand total presents profound ethical questions about the current adult generation's willingness to live up to the record of the previous "Greatest Generation."

2006 NOTABLE LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES FOR CHILDREN

The overall dire picture for child investment was briefly ameliorated during the first six months of 2006. The economy rebounded somewhat and produced \$7.5 billion in unexpected new revenue after the Governor's proposed 2006–07 state budget was first presented in January 2006. This meant that the Governor's May Revise for the budget year beginning on July 1 could avoid the consequences of the nascent structural deficit—at least for one year. The Governor, now chastened by his electoral defeat, responded by acceding to the vote results, and to the continuing polls and focus group testing that has become a fixture in high-level politics. He moved to the center on numerous issues, restored the education monies required by Proposition 98, joined with the Legislature on infrastructure bonds, advanced a number of environmental projects (including legislation to begin addressing global warming), and paid down a small portion of the still looming future bond and other financial obligations.

And there was other news favorable to children from the Legislature's own initiative. These included an increase in the minimum wage (an important factor in child poverty for minimum wage parents). Education received restoration of \$4 billion promised in 2005; infrastructure bonds to be presented to the electorate may promise some long overdue capital improvements to schools, and underperforming schools will get focused help. The Governor's after-school child care funding initiative (Proposition 49, which heralded his entrance into state politics) will finally receive substantial funding. Some barriers to child health coverage will be removed. And in the area of child abuse, the Assembly created a Select Committee on Foster Care, chaired by Assemblywoman Karen Bass, to focus on foster children and their plight, with several related measures achieving passage.

WORK UNFINISHED

In each of the areas addressed above, much that was attempted died in process, much was weakened, and much was left undone. In terms of child poverty, beyond the minimum wage increase, the TANF benefits continue to decline—with cost-of-living increases denied year after year, and with the public safety net now at a record low as a percentage of the poverty line (from 95% of the line to below 67% currently). And the state's CalWORKs implementation of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 welfare reform has put some parents to work, but has also relegated more children into extreme poverty (below one-half of the poverty line). A disturbing number of parents lack both employment and public assistance for their children. Yet the Governor vetoed a bill that asked for nothing more than a study of child poverty with an eye to eliminating it—which this wealthy state

is well able to accomplish. Another measure would have removed bureaucratic barriers to children eligible for Food Stamps and school lunch help; the veto message acknowledged the worth of feeding hungry children and the value of the bill in facilitating food for impoverished kids, but noted that the remaining “structural deficit” precluded his signature.

As to K–12 education, California will likely remain the state with the second largest class sizes in the nation—a critical indicator of educational commitment and efficacy. With regard to higher education, the state has not only increased tuition and fees substantially, but has reduced capacity. There were more community college to university “slots” per 18-year-old in 1991 than now—when our children need higher education more than ever.

Although the after-school activities increase is important, subsidized child care continues to cover only a small percentage of the need, particularly in the inner cities and rural areas. And inspection of child care facilities remains completely inadequate—dog shelters are inspected more often.

In the area of health coverage, more children are now enrolled due to Healthy Families, the state’s implementation of the federal State Child Health Insurance Program. But the trend nationally is now one of enrollment decrease, subtracting from gains made over the last ten years. Over 8 million eligible children still lack coverage nationally. California has almost one million children without coverage. Most of the additional coverage over the last five years has not come from the state, but from counties. More than thirty of them have now expanded child health coverage beyond federal or state lines on their own limited dime, reflecting a social conscience beyond the apparent reach of legislative performance to date.

Ironically, less than 3% of the state’s children are uncovered privately and ineligible for public coverage. To prevent that small fraction from receiving substantial medical services, the state chooses a system of enrollment with premiums demanded of those just above the poverty line, and children must be signed up one at a time in advance. Under such a numerical ratio, a rational system would grant presumptive coverage to all children, and then require a financial declaration from parents of children receiving significant services, followed by sliding scale billing for the few requiring public services and ineligible for its receipt. There appears to be no constituency supporting such a sensible policy, and legislative proposals to date tweak eligibility paperwork or attempt to grant universal health care to all persons. Children cost one-seventh the amount that adults cost to cover and receive health insurance in every developed nation in the world. Even the Iraqi Constitution provides for it. The California Legislature has yet to act dispositively, and continues to forego many millions in federal funds available at a two to one match.

CHILD WELFARE DISAPPOINTMENTS

The child welfare work of the 2006 legislative session warrants special comment because of its announced priority and the hard work of Assemblywoman Karen Bass and others on behalf of the state’s abused and neglected children. Regrettably, however, some of the successful bills for foster children were somewhat marginalized during the legislative process. For example, the bill to create a coordinating council of public officials to guide foster care policy was watered down due to territorial objections from the Governor’s office, and the provisions to make the Foster Care Ombudsman independent from those he/she is monitoring was removed—an impor-

tant loss for these children in need of an institutionalized and unfettered champion within the system. The provision to assure foster children continued legal representation during the appeal of their cases was similarly watered down and now such obvious due process protection (afforded all parents) now depends on the good graces of a Judicial Council rule to inhibit the current practice of limiting such representation—a practice now regrettably in effect in five of the state’s six judicial districts.

Other child welfare bills died in toto in 2006, including many warranting priority well beyond those winning successful passage. One important such bill would have increased the supply of family foster care providers by focusing on their recruitment and increasing their compensation. Family foster care is the source of 80% of foster care non-kin adoptions. These families provide more personal care and serve as the common alternative to group homes, where outcomes have been (with some exceptions) distressingly poor. Low education performance, college graduation rates below 3%, common homelessness, pregnancies, and arrests statistically attend group home placement and emancipation. The family providers receive from \$420 to \$650 per month per child depending on age—less than the cost of caring for involved children and as a practical matter precluding 75% of the adult population from participating. The group homes receive \$3,500 to \$5,000 per child per month. A doubling of family foster care rates would save money beyond the next several fiscal years, and it would enhance the supply of those able to adopt, with important outcome improvements for the state’s abused and neglected children. Family foster rates were last increased a small amount in 2001, and have in spending power actually fallen more than 25% since 1996 due to inflation. But there was no increase in 2006—none. The bill was held in the suspense file, where it died without a public vote.

The Legislature did add some \$84 million for foster child-related purposes. But \$50 million of that fund went to a single beneficiary for one specific purpose—social worker caseload reduction. The social workers serving foster children have caseloads sometimes over 40 or 50, clearly warranting caseload reduction—and their role as the prime monitors of foster children justifies some priority. But the relative success of this meritorious increase was fueled not by its relative merits so much as the political power of its sponsors, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and public employee unions (SEIU). The stagnant family foster care rates warrant at least equivalent priority, as does caseload reduction for attorneys representing children—who do not have caseloads of 50, but 250–350 and more in many California counties.

The remaining \$34 million of increase funding included equity for relatives caring for foster children and adults choosing to adopt. But it is accurate to factor into cited raw dollar increases the effect of population and inflation change year to year. A \$20 million increase may be a spending power decrease where \$30 million is necessary to match inflation and population increase.

As important as proper adjusters is the matter of scale. Transition help for youth as they age out of foster care is illustrative. The median amount Americans spend on their children after they reach 18 years of age is \$42,000. Foster children have the state as their parent. No responsible parent would simply leave his or her child to the streets at 18, but the state essentially does so. The 2006 Legislature allocated \$5 million for such help and killed higher education and medical coverage facilitation. How much is required for the Legislature to match what private parents do (reflecting median “family values” for a population of greater-than-median need)? Approximately \$160 million would provide comparable support for the children emancipating from state parentage. The state has met 3% of average parental performance.

SUSPENSE FILE GRAVEYARD

The Governor absolutely forbids new revenue, or the excision of existing tax breaks, whatever their continuing justification. California is one of only two states that requires a two-thirds legislative majority to enact a budget, or to tax (or to end a special tax credit or deduction)—making Republican Party intransigence an effective obstacle to majority rule in legislative decisions, quite apart from the prospect of veto.

Indeed, both parties have failed to invest responsibly in children, breaking the chain of such sacrifice forged by previous generations of adults. That failure is manifested in the “Suspense File” death of many important bills for children, particularly the heralded child welfare bills of 2006. This procedural graveyard allows legislative immolation of child friendly bills without a public vote of rejection. The practice works as follows: After a bill passes out of its policy committee, it is referred to an appropriations committee if it involves even small public cost. It then goes into what is termed the “Suspense File”—and is kept there without vote unless affirmatively removed for scheduled consideration by the appropriations committee. Hence, bills die without vote. Those so killed in 2006 include the most important bills for foster children—who were the stated beneficiaries of legislative priority this year. Bills to provide higher education subsidy, medical coverage, and family foster care rate reform all failed in this suspense file forum, as did many other child friendly bills. All died on the altar of the “structural deficit.” Some of them would actually save money in the long-term, but that is not the time horizon here applied. Importantly, the fact of categorical refusal to spend money for children is the behind-the-scenes cited reason for child investment paralysis in California.

The Suspense File elimination of meritorious bills without vote is of particular concern in a document purporting to grade the voting record of legislators. Hence, in order to include—to some extent—the Legislature’s record in killing such bills without vote, we have made an adjustment to the scores below accordingly. We have selected one of the major such bills in the Senate and another in the Assembly and attribute a single negative vote to each legislator based on the failure to allow an accountable vote on these measures. As a result, the highest score possible by a legislator in this *Report Card* is 96%.

Subjects Graded

2006 BILLS

CHILD POVERTY

AB 1835 (Lieber) increases the state's minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2007, and to \$8.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2008. Increasing the minimum wage, which had not been increased since 2002, will help the 1.4 million employees in California who earn at or near the minimum wage—including many in child-related industries such as child care. The minimum wage increase will also help reduce dependency on public assistance programs.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 12 (Chapter 230, Statutes of 2006).

AB 2205 (Evans) would have required the Department of Social Services to establish categorical eligibility for Food Stamps for Medi-Cal recipients who are eligible to receive CalWORKs services; eligibility for Food Stamps would also have triggered eligibility for school lunch participation. Thus, the measure would have simplified the process and avoided barriers to participation of low-income families and children in the Food Stamp and school meals programs.

STATUS: The Governor vetoed this bill on September 30.

AB 2466 (Daucher) allows CalWORKs recipients to have savings in retirement or college savings accounts without counting against resource limits for purposes of CalWORKs eligibility. This bill will help promote self-sufficiency of CalWORKs families by increasing their ability to accumulate assets and obtain financial counseling.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 29 (Chapter 781, Statutes of 2006).

AB 2556 (Jones) would have declared that it is the goal of Legislature to halve child poverty by Jan. 1, 2016, and eliminate it entirely by Jan. 1, 2026. The bill also would have required the Department of Finance to report annually on how the Governor's proposed budget will impact the goal of reducing child poverty.

STATUS: The Governor vetoed this bill on September 30.

AB 2781 (Leno) regulates private child support collectors by, among other things, requiring them to meet some basic consumer protections in their dealings with support obligees in contracting for the collection of past-due child support, and prohibiting them from engaging in any debt collection practices that are prohibited by the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 29 (Chapter 797, Statutes of 2006).

SB 1534 (Ortiz) states legislative intent to affirm the ability of counties, cities, and hospital districts to provide health care and other services to all residents, if any of these entities has decided to do so at its own discretion. Thus, the measure will protect counties' authority to provide health care to eligible residents, including those offered through the local Children's Health Initiatives, affirm local control, and prevent a public health crisis in these communities.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 30 (Chapter 801, Statutes of 2006).

HEALTH / SAFETY

AB 1144 (Harman) requires the Department of Health Services to adopt, and amend as necessary, its playground safety regulations in order to meet the current American Society for Testing and Materials standards for playground safety and other standards that relate to playground equipment. This will help ensure that as playground manufacturer specifications and industry standards change, California's regulations relative to playground safety are modified to keep pace with technologies, trends, and advancements in playground equipment and installation.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 26 (Chapter 470, Statutes of 2006).

AB 1948 (Montañez) requires the Department of Health Services to conduct, or contract for the conducting of, a feasibility study report of technological requirements for modifying the Child Health and Disability Prevention Gateway to allow a person applying on behalf of a child the option to simultaneously pre-enroll and apply for enrollment in Medi-Cal or Healthy Families over the Internet without submitting a follow-up application. The ultimate goal of this measure is to eliminate some of the barriers in the application process that prevent eligible children from enrolling in public health coverage programs.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 19 (Chapter 332, Statutes of 2006).

AB 2108 (Evans) would have changed child passenger safety restraint laws to require children under eight to be placed in an appropriate child safety restraint system in the back seat, under specified circumstances. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration has suggested that children who have outgrown car seats with an internal harness, usually at about age four, should be properly restrained in a seat belt positioning car seat until they are eight years of age, unless they are four feet nine inches or taller. Children who use car or booster seats instead of seat belts alone are 59% less likely to be injured if they are involved in an accident.

STATUS: The Governor vetoed this bill on September 29.

AB 2977 (Mullin) requires new and remodeled pools and spas to provide at least one safety feature from a list of eligible features, adds mesh fences and swimming pool alarms to the list of enumerated drowning prevention safety features, and requires remodeled pools and spas to cover drains with an anti-entrapment grate. Swimming pool drowning is the leading cause of injury death for toddlers ages one to four; over 50 children drown each year. For every fatality, there are four more near-drownings, with many of these victims suffering lifelong disability.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 26 (Chapter 478, Statutes of 2006).

SB 437 (Escutia) establishes the Healthy Families Presumptive Eligibility Program for children who appear to meet the income requirements of Healthy Families and were receiving but are no longer eligible for Medi-Cal without a share of cost or are eligible for Medi-Cal with share of cost, and establishes the Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Accelerated Enrollment Program, subject to federal approval, to provide temporary benefits until a final eligibility determination is made for children applying for Medi-Cal who appear to be eligible for Healthy Families.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 19 (Chapter 328, Statutes of 2006).

SB 1528 (Bowen) requires Medi-Cal fee-for-service to cover prenatal treatment for tocolytic agents, medications that can inhibit labor by slowing down or halting the contractions of the uterus. Tocolytic agents are widely used to treat premature labor and permit pregnancy to proceed, permitting the fetus to gain in size and maturity before being born.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 29 (Chapter 666, Statutes of 2006).

CHILD CARE

AB 633 (Benoit), among other things, requires licensed child day care facilities to provide to parents or legal guardians of each child receiving services in the facility copies of any licensing report that documents a complaint investigation that results in a citation that represents an immediate risk to the health, safety, or personal rights of children in care, and copies of any licensing document pertaining to a conference conducted by a local licensing agency management representative with the licensee in which issues of noncompliance are discussed. Upon enrollment of a new child in a facility, the bill requires the licensee to provide to the parents or legal guardians of the newly enrolling child copies of any licensing report or document that the licensee has received during the prior 12-month period pertaining to the above type of complaint investigation or conference. The bill requires the licensee to require each recipient of the above reports and documents to sign a statement indicating that he/she has received the document and the date it was received, and to keep verification of receipt in each child's file.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 28 (Chapter 545, Statutes of 2006).

AB 1282 (Mullin) extends the availability of the Employer Child Care Program Credit and the Employer Child Care Contribution Credit to taxable years beginning before January 1, 2012; requires the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to report to the legislature on or before January 1, 2011, regarding the dollar amount of the credits claimed annually, and the number of children served by the qualified child care plan receiving the credit; and requires taxpayers taking the contribution credit to report to the FTB the number of children served by the qualified child care plan. Extending these credits will encourage businesses to start or continue efforts to help provide child care for their employees.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 29 (Chapter 712, Statutes of 2006).

EDUCATION

AB 2560 (Ridley-Thomas) requires the Department of Health Services and the Department of Education to collaborate on the creation of the Public School Health Center Support Program. The bill is aimed at establishing a coordinated state program to strengthen current collaborative efforts between health and education so that resources can be used more efficiently and effectively to reach the children and youth who are most in need.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 19 (Chapter 334, Statutes of 2006).

CHILD PROTECTION

AB 1942 (Nava) requires the Peace Office Standards and Training Commission to create guidelines and training for state and local law enforcement officers on child safety when a caretaker parent or guardian is arrested. The bill is aimed at minimizing the trauma suffered by children in such circumstances, creating policies that allow for the children to be treated with respect and care.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 29 (Chapter 729, Statutes of 2006).

AB 2031 (Cohn) would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to work with stakeholders to draft best practices guidelines for using advanced technology to assist counties in identifying all relatives and non-relative extended family members for foster children. In most cases, placing children with relatives or extended family members increases the child's likelihood of successful outcomes. In counties that have voluntarily used advanced technology to identify relatives and non-relative extended family members, placement of children with loved ones has improved significantly.

STATUS: The Governor vetoed this bill on September 29.

AB 2216 (Bass) creates the California Child Welfare Council, an advisory body that will be responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies and courts that serve children and youth in the child welfare and foster care systems. This bill also requires the creation of judicial outcome measures by April 1, 2008. The goal of the bill is to correct the state's failure to effectively coordinate services administered by a vast array of state and county agencies, thereby leaving children subject to injuries and without essential health, dental, mental health, housing and educational services.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 22 (Chapter 384, Statutes of 2006).

AB 2480 (Evans) establishes a process for the appointment of appellate counsel for children in dependency proceedings. The bill is aimed at ensuring that, as a matter of due process, children have competent representation through all stages of the legal process. The measure also clarifies the law pertaining to the holding of patient-therapist/physician and penitent/clergy privilege, thus ensuring that these privileges can be appropriately protected for children in dependency proceedings.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 22 (Chapter 385, Statutes of 2006).

AB 2481 (Evans) would have increased grant payments for foster family home providers by 5%; required future annual grant increases based upon the California Necessities Index; and expanded current foster parent recruitment and retention efforts by creating the Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment and Retention Program. Foster family home grant amounts have not been increased since 2001, while the cost of living has increased over 20% during that same period. Because of the low grant and the lack of supportive services available, many counties find it difficult to recruit enough foster family home providers. By not adequately funding foster family homes, the state ends up spending more on foster care than is necessary because counties are forced to place children in more expensive and more restrictive settings, such as group homes.

STATUS: This bill died in the Assembly Appropriations' suspense file.

AB 2488 (Leno) establishes a process to enable adopted siblings to petition to have names of related siblings released. The bill seeks to facilitate sibling relationships when siblings have been adopted. Under current law, children may seek contact with their biological siblings by requesting that the agency that facilitated the adoption release their siblings' information. However before the agency can do so, both siblings must have attained the age of 21 and both must have petitioned for release of the information. This bill would reduce some of those hurdles by lowering the age to 18, or even lower if the minor's parent consents. Additionally, if one of the siblings has not filed a request for release, this bill allows a sibling to petition the court to appoint a confidential intermediary to obtain the consent of the other sibling.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 22 (Chapter 386, Statutes of 2006).

AB 2985 (Maze) requires a county welfare department to request a consumer credit disclosure on a foster youth turning 16, and to refer that foster youth to a credit counseling organization upon any indication of a disclosure revealing negative items or evidence of identity theft. Regrettably, biological parents of foster youth, and in some cases foster parents, have sometimes exploited knowledge of a foster youth's social security number and other personal information for financial gain. Foster youth who are victims of identity theft find increased difficulty in obtaining housing and accessing other financial services, once they are emancipated.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 22 (Chapter 387, Statutes of 2006).

SB 1289 (Cedillo) would have provided additional education and support to foster youth who "age-out" of the foster care system by extending benefits to youth over the age of 18 until they reach age 21. More than one half of former foster youth experience homelessness, and their average earnings are less than poverty level. Recent studies demonstrate that substantial improvement in outcomes for former foster youth can be achieved through extended support, and additional support should generate offsetting savings.

STATUS: This bill died in the Senate Appropriations' suspense file.

SB 1641 (Soto) requires the Department of Social Services to report to the Legislature on the progress of its Community Care Licensing residential care regulation review. The measure defines a home that meets the best needs of the child to include a home that meets the child's health, safety, and well-being needs, is the least restrictive and most family-like environment, and allows the child to engage in reasonable, age-appropriate day-to-day activities, as specified. The bill require the foster child's caregiver to use a reasonable and prudent parent standard, as defined, to determine these age-appropriate activities.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 22 (Chapter 388, Statutes of 2006).

JUVENILE JUSTICE

SB 1469 (Cedillo) requires counties to help youth being released from incarceration in county detention facilities apply for Medi-Cal. The bill will help ensure Medi-Cal and other health benefits for eligible adolescents immediately upon their release from juvenile detention facilities, and will assist youth who are trying to put their lives back on track after incarceration.

STATUS: The Governor signed this bill on September 29 (Chapter 657, Statutes of 2006).

SB 1616 (Kuehl) would have required the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to work with the Social Security Administration and the Department of Health Services to ensure that disabled wards are enrolled in Medi-Cal and that their disability benefits are available to them when they are released from incarceration at a state institution. The bill would have ensured that disabled youth have critical health care and cash assistance immediately upon release, which would help promote their successful reentry into their communities.

STATUS: The Governor vetoed this bill on September 29.

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 *2006 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. Where a bill was held in the suspense file of the house of origin, legislators in that house receive the equivalent of a “NO” vote for failing to pull the bill from suspense for a public vote; legislators in the other house are not graded on that 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).

	Legislator	POVERTY						HEALTH/SAFETY	CHILD CARE						
		AB 1835 (Lieber)	AB 2205 (Evans)	AB 2466 (Daucher)	AB 2556 (Jones)	AB 2781 (Leno)	SB 1534 (Ortiz)		AB 1144 (Harman)	AB 1948 (Montanez)	AB 2108 (Evans)	AB 2977 (Mullin)	SB 437 (Escutia)	SB 1528 (Bowen)	AB 633 (Benoit)
SENATORS	Anestad	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
	Ackerman	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	★	★
	Alarcon	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Alquist	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Ashburn	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	★	★
	Battin	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	★	★
	Bowen	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Cedillo	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
	Chesbro	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	-	★	-	★	★	★	★
	Cox	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
	Denham	-	-	★	★	-	-	★	★	-	★	-	★	★	★
	Ducheny	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	-	★	★	★	★
	Dunn	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★
	Dutton	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
	Escutia	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Figueroa	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Florez	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Harman	-	-	★	-*	-	-	★	-	-*	★	-	★	★	★
	Hollingsworth	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
	Kehoe	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Kuehl	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Lowenthal	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★
	Machado	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Maldonado	★	-	★	★	-	-	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★
	Margett	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	-	★	★
	McClintock	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	★
	Migden	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★
	Morrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	★	★
	Murray	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	-	★	-	★	★
	Ortiz	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Perata	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★
	Poochigian	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
	Romero	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Runner	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	★	★	
Scott	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	
Simitian	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	-	★	-	★	★	
Soto	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
Speier	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
Torlakson	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
Vincent	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
ASSEMBLYMEMBERS	Aghazarian	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★
	Arambula	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
	Baca	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Bass	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-*
	Benoit	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
	Berg	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Bermudez	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Blakeslee	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★
	Bogh	-	★	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
	Calderon	★	-	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★
	Canciamilla	★	-	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Chan	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Chavez	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Chu	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Cogdill	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
	Cohn	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Coto	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
	Daucher	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
	De La Torre	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★

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

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

	EDUCATION		CHILD PROTECTION								JUVENILE JUSTICE		2006 Votes for Children	2006 Grade	Legislator	
	AB 2560 (Ridley-Thomas)		AB 1942 (Nava)	AB 2031 (Cohn)	AB 2216 (Bass)	AB 2480 (Evans)	AB 2481 (Evans)	AB 2488 (Leno)	AB 2985 (Maze)	SB 1289 (Cedillo)	SB 1641 (Soto)	SB 1469 (Cedillo)				SB 1616 (Kuehl)
	-		*	*	-	-		*	*	-**	-	-	-	8	32%	Aanestad
	-		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	-	-	-	7	28%	Ackerman
	*		-	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Alarcon
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	24	96%	Alquist
	-		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	-	-	-	6	24%	Ashburn
	-		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	-	-	-	6	24%	Battin
	*		*	-	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	-	22	88%	Bowen
	*		*	-	*	*		*	-	-**	*	*	-	20	80%	Cedillo
	*		*	*	-	-		*	*	-**	*	*	*	19	76%	Chesbro
	-		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	-	*	-	8	32%	Cox
	-		*	-	*	-		*	*	-**	*	*	-	14	56%	Denham
	*		-*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	21	84%	Ducheny
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Dunn
	-		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	-	-	-	8	32%	Dutton
	*		*	-	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Escutia
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	-	*	*	23	92%	Figueroa
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	-	*	*	22	88%	Florez
	-		*	*	-	-		*	-*	-**	-	*	-	10	40%	Harman
	-		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	-	-	-	8	32%	Hollingsworth
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Kehoe
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	24	96%	Kuehl
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	22	88%	Lowenthal
	-		-	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	22	88%	Machado
	-		*	-	*	-		*	-*	-**	*	*	*	15	60%	Maldonado
	-		*	*	-	-		*	*	-**	*	*	*	9	36%	Margett
	-		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	9	36%	McClintock
	*		*	-	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	22	88%	Migden
	-		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	-	-	-	6	24%	Morrow
	*		*	-	*	*		*	-	-**	*	*	*	18	72%	Murray
	*		*	-	*	*		*	-	-**	*	*	*	21	84%	Ortiz
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Perata
	-		-*	*	-	-		*	*	-**	*	-	-	9	36%	Poochigian
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	24	96%	Romero
	-		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	-	-	-	6	24%	Runner
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Scott
	*		*	-	-	-		*	*	-**	*	-	*	17	68%	Simitian
	-		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Soto
	*		*	-	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Speier
	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	24	96%	Torlakson
	*		*	-	*	*		*	*	-**	*	*	*	23	92%	Vincent

	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*		-	-	12	48%	Aghazarian
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	23	92%	Arambula
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Baca
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	23	92%	Bass
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	*	*	-	10	40%	Benoit
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Berg
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Bermudez
	-		*	*	*	-	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	56%	Blakeslee
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	*	*	-	10	40%	Bogh
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	21	84%	Calderon
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	22	88%	Canciamilla
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Chan
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Chavez
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Chu
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	*	*	-	10	40%	Cogdill
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	23	92%	Cohn
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	23	92%	Coto
	*		*	*	*	-	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	17	68%	Daucher
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	96%	De La Torre

-* : EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

V : VACANT SEAT

Legislator	POVERTY						HEALTH/SAFETY	CHILD CARE						
	AB 1835 (Lieber)	AB 2205 (Evans)	AB 2466 (Daucher)	AB 2556 (Jones)	AB 2781 (Leno)	SB 1534 (Ortiz)		AB 1144 (Harman)	AB 1948 (Montanez)	AB 2108 (Evans)	AB 2977 (Mullin)	SB 437 (Escutia)	SB 1528 (Bowen)	AB 633 (Benoit)
Devore	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
Dymally	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Emmerson	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Evans	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Frommer	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Garcia	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	★	★	★
Goldberg	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Hancock	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★
Harman	-	V	V	-	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	★
Haynes	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	★
J. Horton	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
S. Horton	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
Houston	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
Huff	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
Jones	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Karnette	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Keene	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Klehs	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Koretz	★	-*	★	★	★	★	★	-*	★	★	★	★	★	★
Laird	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
LaMalfa	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
La Suer	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	★	-	-	-	★	★	★
Leno	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Leslie	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	★	★	★
Levine	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Lieber	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Lieu	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Liu	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Matthews	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
Maze	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
McCarthy	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Montanez	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Mountjoy	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
Mullin	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Nakanishi	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
Nation	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Nava	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Negrete McLeod	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Niello	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Nunez	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Oropeza	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Parra	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Pavley	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Plescia	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Richman	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
Ridley-Thomas	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Runner	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Ruskin	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Saldana	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Salinas	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Spitzer	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Strickland	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
Torrico	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Tran	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★
Umberg	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-*	★	★
Vargas	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Villines	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Walters	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	★	★
Wolk	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Wyland	-	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★
Yee	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

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

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

	EDUCATION		CHILD PROTECTION						JUVENILE JUSTICE		2006 Votes for Children	2006 Grade	Legislator	
	AB 2560 (Ridley-Thomas)		AB 1942 (Nava)	AB 2031 (Cohn)	AB 2216 (Bass)	AB 2480 (Evans)	AB 2481 (Evans)	AB 2488 (Leno)	AB 2985 (Maze)	SB 1289 (Cedillo)				SB 1641 (Soto)
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	-	-	9	36%	Devore
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Dymally
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	11	44%	Emmerson
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Evans
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Frommer
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	*	13	52%	Garcia
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Goldberg
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	23	92%	Hancock
	V		V	*	V	V	-**	V	V	V	V			Harman ¹
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	-	-	7	28%	Haynes
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	J. Horton
	-		*	*	*	-	-**	*	*	*	*	16	64%	S. Horton
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	10	40%	Houston
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	10	40%	Huff
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Jones
	*		-*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	22	88%	Karnette
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	11	44%	Keene
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Klehs
	-		*	*	-*	-*	-**	*	*	*	*	17	68%	Koretz
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Laird
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	-	-	9	36%	LaMalfa
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	-	-	10	40%	La Suer
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Leno
	-		*	*	*	-	-**	*	*	*	-	12	48%	Leslie
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Levine
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Lieber
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Lieu
	*		-*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	23	92%	Liu
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	22	88%	Matthews
	-		*	*	*	-	-**	*	*	*	-	11	44%	Maze
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	11	44%	McCarthy
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Montanez
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	-	-	9	36%	Mountjoy
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Mullin
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	-	-	13	52%	Nakanishi
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Nation
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Nava
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Negrete McLeod
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	*	12	48%	Niello
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Nunez
	*		-*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	23	92%	Oropeza
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Parra
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Pavley
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	11	44%	Plescia
	-		*	*	*	-	-**	*	*	*	*	15	60%	Richman
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Ridley-Thomas
	-		*	*	*	-	-**	*	*	*	-	12	48%	Runner
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Ruskin
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Saldana
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Salinas
	-		*	*	*	-	-**	*	*	*	-	13	52%	Spitzer
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	10	40%	Strickland
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Torraco
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	13	52%	Tran
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	-*	22	88%	Umberg
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Vargas
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	11	44%	Villines
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	-	-	9	36%	Walters
	*		-*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	23	92%	Wolk
	-		*	*	-	-	-**	*	*	*	-	11	44%	Wyland
	*		*	*	*	*	-**	*	*	*	*	24	96%	Yee

-* : EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

V : VACANT SEAT

1. Assemblymember Tom Harman was elected to the Senate in a June 2006 special election. Please refer to the "Senators" section for his 2006 voting information.



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