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- INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>
2. Create an account if you do not already have.
3. Click on "Submit a Letter"
4. Select a bill: AB 740
5. Select Stance: Support, Subject AB 740 (McCarty)
6. Upload your letter, review, and submit

Date

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 4005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 740 (McCarty) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

[Name of Your Organization] strongly supports AB 740 (McCarty), which would protect the educational rights of students in foster care. By requiring a foster student's state-appointed attorney to be notified of suspensions, expulsions, or involuntary school transfers, AB 740 will ensure that all foster youth have someone to advocate on their behalf in school discipline proceedings.

Students in foster care are suspended at disproportionately high rates. Statewide, the suspension rate for foster students is more than *four times* the suspension rate for their non-foster peers. Breaking this data down by race, gender, and ethnicity reveals even more alarming inequities. Black male students are suspended at a six times the statewide average rate.

Foster students often do not have a qualified adult to advocate on their behalf when they are suspended or expelled. Foster parents or guardians may lack the time, background, or expertise to advocate for the academic rights of the students in their care. Furthermore, students may cycle through multiple placements or be placed in group homes, which makes advocacy at school even less likely.

Missing valuable class time due to school suspensions deepens existing opportunity gaps for foster students and fuels a cycle of negative academic outcomes. Children in foster care are assigned a court-appointed attorney to advocate on their behalf. Ensuring that a foster child's attorney is notified of school discipline proceedings is a simple and necessary step to safeguard the educational rights of these vulnerable students.

For these reasons, **[your organization]** is pleased to support AB 740, and respectfully asks for your "aye" vote when it comes before you in the committee.

Sincerely,
Your Name

Title

Organization