

September 7, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Submitted via email to [Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov](mailto:Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov)

Re: SUPPORT FOR AB 317 (PATTERSON)

Dear Governor Newsom:

\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully requests your signature on AB 317. It is a bill that, because of the COVID19 pandemic and the challenges it has caused in our state's foster care system, is urgently needed.

The Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsman was enacted in 1998 in part to investigate and resolve complaints made by foster youth regarding their care. Because of widespread shut-downs of courts during the pandemic, numerous and unprecedented problems have arisen in caring for foster children. These challenges include disruptions involving such important issues as visitation with parents, siblings and relatives, appropriateness of placement, and ability to obtain education. It is expected that the Ombudsperson will receive a record number of complaints involving foundational issues such as these and, to address them, that Office will more than ever need the independence to triage and prioritize such complaints.

AB 317 will ensure greater independence and clarified authority for the Ombudsperson, improving its ability to perform its critical mission. For these reasons, \_\_\_\_\_ supports AB 317 and requests you sign it.

Sincerely,