SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER FOR AB 217 (MAIENSCHEIN)

XXXXXX, 2015

The Hon. Assemblymember Brian Maienschein

Assemblymember, 77th District

State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Support for AB 217 (Maienschein)

Dear Assemblymember Maienschein:

INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME supports AB 217.

Every major decision about the life of a foster child is determined by a judge in a courtroom. As a traumatized child severed from their parents, siblings, and family, the dependency courtroom will be an intimidating place.

At the very, very least, we can better ensure that these children have an opportunity to advocate for themselves.

Under current law (WIC section 349) children are permitted to speak if they ask too, but too few do because of how intimidating the setting is.

Current law (WIC section 349) should be revised so that the judge properly and consistent with the importance of the proceeding to the child and mindful of how intimidating and awesome the proceeding might feel, actually invites the child in every proceeding to speak. Your bill does exactly this and we support this

This is a common-sense, compassionate and overdue measure.

Sincerely,