[Place on organizational letterhead.]

[DATE]

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor of the State of California

State Capitol, 1st Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

**RE: AB 1301 (COOLEY) - Urge Signature**

On behalf of [ORGANIZATION], I respectfully request your signature on AB 1301 by Assembly Member Cooley. This bill, sponsored by the County Welfare Directors Association, completes the shift of responsibility for the Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program (PAARP) to county human services agencies.

Established in 1974, PAARP is designed to support collaboration between county child welfare and private adoption agencies in recruiting adoptive families for foster children. In our county, we work with a number of privately licensed agencies to support our adoption work and appreciate these partnerships. Under 2011 Realignment, PAARP funding was realigned to counties, but responsibility for the administration of the program was left at the state level, with counties having little to no control over PAARP expenditures. In the past several years, PAARP claims have exceeded the amount provided by counties. [PERSONALIZE: In our county alone we have been billed $XXX,XXX over the past X years above the amount we already contribute pursuant to Realignment.]

The structure whereby counties continue to fund the program while CDSS administers was never intended to be permanent, and the fact that counties are receiving surprise bills for the program overages that we have no control over is untenable for us as a county agency that reports directly to the Board of Supervisors and has limited funding to draw from.

AB 1301 would complete the job of realigning PAARP funding to the counties, enabling our agencies to be more attuned to the spending related to our use of adoption agencies. We would also be authorized to spend extra funds on other pre- and post-permanency services for children in foster care. For these reasons, [ORGANIZATION] is pleased to support AB 1301 and urges your signature on this measure.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE]

cc: County Welfare Directors Association of California