MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

A.9538 JOYNER /S.8749 RAMOS - AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to requiring human service providers that contract with the state to pay their employees a minimum wage of twenty-one dollars per hour


While we appreciate the investments in the recently enacted budget to provide cost of living adjustments for many human services workers, our prevention and health home care management staff were not included within the provisions. Additionally, our voluntary foster care agencies across the state continue to struggle and recover from multiple years of stagnant rates, unfunded mandates, and the fiscal challenges and constraints that accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our child welfare workforce continued to come to work every day throughout the pandemic to care for children and youth across the state, and are part of our essential workforce. We need to ensure that they are paid a just wage.

This bill would require that the State provide funding to support human services providers in paying their workers at least $21 per hour. COFCCA strongly supports A.9538/S.8749 and encourages the Legislature to pass the bill.

For more information please contact Michelle Newman, at mnewman@cofcca.org or (212) 929-2626.