



CITY OF MURRIETA

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to AB 495 (Rodriguez): Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025.

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Murrieta, I write in respectful opposition to AB 495, the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025. While the intent to protect children in times of family crisis is commendable, the bill raises serious concerns related to parental rights and the imposition of new, unfunded mandates on local agencies and school districts.

Parents are the first and most important decision-makers in their children's lives. AB 495, by requiring local educational agencies and childcare facilities to adopt and continually update Attorney General-issued policies, risks diminishing parental authority by shifting critical decisions to bureaucratic institutions rather than preserving the parent's right to guide their child's care. The creation of confidential guardianship processes, coupled with expanded authority for third parties, could unintentionally erode transparency and weaken the ability of parents to maintain oversight of decisions directly impacting their children.

Further, AB 495 places significant new administrative and financial burdens on local educational agencies, childcare providers, and the state's trial courts without providing additional funding to support implementation. The bill requires extensive policy revisions, training, compliance monitoring, and reporting to state agencies, all of which represent ongoing costs. The aggregate fiscal impacts across more than 2,300 local education agencies may be substantial. Without identified funding sources, this measure constitutes yet another unfunded state mandate that diverts limited resources away from classrooms, student services, and core educational priorities.

For these reasons, we must respectfully oppose AB 495. We urge your Administration to reconsider this proposal and work collaboratively with local agencies and parents to develop solutions that both safeguard children and preserve parental authority without creating costly and unfunded obligations for schools and communities.

Sincerely,

Cindy Warren,
Mayor