Use your organization’s stationery, then submit your letter to Governor Newsom by emailing it to leg.unit@gov.ca.gov and please send a signed copy to Julie McCormick, mccormickj@clccal.org.

September XX, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 740 (McCarty) - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom:

**[Name of Your Organization]** strongly supports AB 740 (McCarty), which would protect the educational rights of children in foster care. Parents are commonly the most committed advocates for their children. But, by definition, foster children have been separated from their parents. By requiring a foster child’s state-appointed attorney to be notified of suspensions, expulsions, or involuntary school transfers in the same fashion as parents are notified, AB 740 will ensure that all foster children have someone to advocate on their behalf in school discipline proceedings.

Students in foster care are suspended at disproportionately high rates. Statewide, the suspension rate for foster children is more than *four times* the suspension rate for their non-foster peers. Breaking this data down by race, gender, and ethnicity reveals even more alarming inequities. Black male students are suspended at *six times* the statewide average rate.

Foster parents or guardians may lack the time, background, or expertise to advocate for the academic rights of the children in their care. Furthermore, students may cycle through multiple placements or be placed in group homes, which makes advocacy at school even less likely.

Missing valuable class time due to school suspensions deepens existing opportunity gaps for foster students and fuels a cycle of negative academic outcomes. Children in foster care are assigned a court-appointed attorney to advocate on their behalf. Ensuring that a foster child’s attorney is notified of school discipline proceedings is a simple and necessary step to safeguard the educational rights of these vulnerable students.

For these reasons, **[your organization]** is pleased to support AB 740, and respectfully asks for your signature.

Sincerely,

**Your Name**

**Title**

**Organization**

cc: Assemblymember McCarty