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California Alliance Sees Missed Opportunities in State Budget

Sacramento, CA – Yesterday, Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature announced their agreement on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 State Budget. The Legislature will vote this week on the final budget agreement, which will then be sent to the Governor for signature. We continue to face immense challenges in public human services systems in California, in particular among communities of color, LGBTQ+ youth, and foster youth. These challenges will only continue unless we take bold action to address the ongoing crises.

While the California Alliance of Child and Family Services commends investments made in childcare, individual taxpayer relief, and youth behavioral health, we are very discouraged that many critical social services investments that would have begun the necessary steps to significantly transform the system were either removed entirely or stripped of the vital funding needed. The removal of funding for family resource centers, COVID-19 relief for short-term residential therapeutic programs, supplemental rates for foster family agencies, and targeted family finding for foster youth will have devastating impacts on our ability to prevent child welfare involvement, support families, and provide services for youth in the foster care system.

While the California Alliance acknowledges the positive investments in children and youth in the overall State Budget, we are dismayed by the lack of investment in youth in, or at risk of foster care. We will continue our steadfast advocacy on behalf of children, youth, and families across California and the community-based organizations that serve them.

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The California Alliance: The collective voice for organizations that serve children, youth, and families. For those dedicated to improving the lives of these at-risk populations, the California Alliance stands apart as the champion and leading voice for organizations that advocate for children, youth, and families and for advancing policy and services on their behalf.

