THE COST TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA: ADOPTION VS FOSTER CARE

➤ **FACT**: **Adoption of children from foster care saves the State $3,917 for each year the child would have been in foster care after the initial one time costs are recouped**. A cost analysis of adoption conducted by CDSS shows that the State recoups the money spent on adoptions (one time court hearing, home assessment, ongoing AAP payments) by the end of the second year. Therefore, if a child is 9 when they are adopted, the State will save $3,917 for years 11-18 for a total savings of $31,336. (Source: California Department of Social Services Adoptions Program Funding Cost/Benefit Analysis, 2005-06)

➤ **FACT**: **The $3,917 of savings per year includes administrative, court, social work, foster care grant payments, and Medi-Cal costs.** (Source: California Department of Social Services Adoptions Program Funding Cost/Benefit Analysis, 2005-06)

➤ **FACT**: **Evidence indicates that youth adopted from foster care access Medi-Cal services at a significantly lower rate than children in foster care**. In the California Long-Range Adoption study, 90% of parents of adopted foster children reported that their children were covered by their own health insurance, thus saving the State thousands of dollars. (Source: A Comparison of the Governmental Costs of Long-Term Foster Care and Adoption, Richard Barth et al, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 2006)

➤ **FACT**: **A dollar spent on the adoption of a child from foster care yields about three dollars in benefits**. (The Value of Adoption, Professor Hansen, American University, Grant from the Center of Adoption Research, December 2006)

➤ **FACT**: **If projected estimates are used to account for 50,000 adoptions of foster youth in the United States, the governmental savings would range from $3.2 billion to $6.3 billion.** (Source: A Comparison of the Governmental Costs of Long-Term Foster Care and Adoption, Richard Barth et al, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 2006)

➤ **FACT**: **Adoption almost doubles measure IQ relative to peers who remain in their original inadequate environment.** Educational progress as measured in terms of academic ability and performance is 50% better. Adopted children are 23% more likely to complete high school than their peers who were not adopted. (The Value of Adoption, Professor Hansen, Grant from the Center of Adoption Research, American University, December 2006)

➤ **FACT**: **Adopted foster youth are 20% less likely to become parents as teens and 15% less likely to abuse alcohol and drugs. The adopted are 21% less likely to be suspended or expelled from school, 32% less likely to be incarcerated, and 24% less likely to be unemployed.** (The Value of Adoption, Professor Hansen, Grant from the Center of Adoption Research, American University, December 2006)

➤ **FACT**: **For the 30-year old who was adopted, income is estimated to be about $9,258 greater per year than it would have been if the person had been in long-term foster care but never adopted**. (The Value of Adoption, Professor Hansen, Grant from the Center of Adoption Research, American University, December 2006)