<< Insert Your Organization’s Letterhead >>

[Date]

The Honorable [Senator/Assemblymember First Name Last Name], Chair

Senate/Assembly Committee Name

Street Address, Suite XX

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1321 (Bonta) – It Takes A Village Act – (SUPPORT)**

Dear Chair [Last Name]:

On behalf of [Organization’s name], I am writing in **SUPPORT** of **Assembly Bill (AB) 1321, the It Takes a Village Act**, which will implement new and strengthen existing neighborhood and regional-based cradle to career (C2C) networks by establishing the California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant program. This grant will be overseen by the CA Department of Social Services and allocate funding to neighborhood and regional-based organizations that provide a coordinated continuum of services and supports to children from before birth through college and career.

[Include a paragraph about your organization]

California has made a concerted effort to create a prosperous state by investing federal, state, and local dollars towards cash grants, food assistance, and other crucial services to children and their families each year; however, despite these investments, transformative impact has not been achieved as children and families continue to live in communities of poverty marked by racial inequities, achievement gaps, health disparities, and many other indicators. To increase impact and a greater return of investments, the state needs a whole child, whole family, and whole community approach to address these issues – namely, implementing a cradle to career strategy.

Neighborhood and regional C2C networks understand that to effectively address poverty, children and families need coordinated health, social, community, and educational support at every stage of life – from cradle to career. Neighborhood networks work locally in economically disadvantaged communities to coordinate with private and public sector partners and integrate services that support children and their families both inside and outside of the classroom walls. Regional networks work on a larger scale, across cities and counties, to convene teams of cross-sector partners, establish structures of shared accountability, and work towards coordinated systems change based on racial equity and inclusion. The C2C networks have seen substantial improvements in health access, literacy, college and career readiness, and reduced child welfare and juvenile justice involvement.

[Insert organization’s background and/or specific stories or cases to emphasize need for this bill]

These established C2C networks have been piloted using one-time federal and philanthropic investments. To scale these proven cradle to career strategies, the state must invest in organizations who **(1) align and leverage cross-sector community partners** for the equitable distribution of services for children and families; **(2) prioritize systems change** by funding and advocating for program and policy changes across cities, counties, and regions; **(3) collect, assess, and share data** by working with partners and communities to identify the needs within neighborhoods, implement evidence-based C2C solutions, and use data to continuously improve programs.

This investment in neighborhood and regional C2C networks is a necessity for long-term equitable recovery, fighting poverty, and advancing racial equity. By investing in place-based support systems, this grant program will create equitable communities that ensure children succeed in schools and families move out of poverty.

For these reasons, [Organization’s Name] is pleased to **SUPPORT** **Assembly Bill 1321 (Bonta)**.

Sincerely,

<Insert Signature Block>