**SUPPORT LETTER SB 242 (Skinner) – HOPE for Children Trust Accounts**

Letters can be submitted on the[**Position Letter Portal**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)*.*

[DATE]

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

Senate/Assembly Committee Name

Street Address, Suite XX

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 242 (Skinner), HOPE for Children Trust Accounts – (SUPPORT)**

Dear Chair [Last Name]:

On behalf of [Organization’s name], I am writing in **SUPPORT** of your **Senate Bill (SB) 242 – HOPE for Children Trust Accounts**.SB 242 further protect these children by ensuring the HOPE Account funds are not considered as income or assets in public safety-net programs, including CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal.

[Include a paragraph about your organization specific knowledge of need for this bill]

Last year, in 2022, California passed legislation to establish the California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program. One hundred million dollars in one-time funds will establish HOPE trust fund accounts that will grow over time, and $15 million dollars in ongoing funds will help to administer HOPE trust fund accounts.

SB 242 will clarify that funds deposited in a HOPE trust fund account will not count as income or assets in a means tested safety-net program. By exempting these funds we can be certain that the HOPE trust fund accounts will not have inadvertent negative consequence of harming eligible youth with a denial in a public safety-net program and will help improve their stability as they advance into adulthood without the parents or caregivers they have lost.

It is for these reasons, [Name of Organization] is pleased to **SUPPORT** SB 242 and urge your support.

Sincerely,

<INSERT SIGNATURE BLOCK>