

CHILDREN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 2023–24

REPORT CARD TERM: 2023

Dear Californians,

Since 1997, the Children's Advocacy Institute has published the annual Children's Legislative Report Card in order to inform Californians of our legislators' actions on a selection of bills that would have benefited children if enacted.

This *Report Card* reflects the "votes for kids" percentages attributed to California legislators for their votes on child-related legislation during 2023, the first year of the 2023–24 legislative session. The grades you will see reflect each legislator's votes on 41 child-friendly bills that ran through policy and fiscal committees and achieved votes on both the Assembly and Senate floors. This Report Card also includes two additional bills—a bill that was killed in the Suspense File of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, and a bill that was killed in the Suspense File of the Senate Appropriations Committee. For those measures, which were allowed to die without a public vote, all legislators in the house where the bill was killed received "no" votes. We include these bills to symbolize all of the worthy child-related measures that were not given priority status by our legislators. When so many hardships and challenges continue to plague our children and youth every day, we believe no legislator can lay claim to a score of 100%.

Because this *Report Card* cannot tell you all there is to know about your elected officials, we urge you to communicate frequently with them so they know your expectations of them with regard to California's children.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Fellmeth
Executive Director



Ed Howard
Senior Policy Advocate



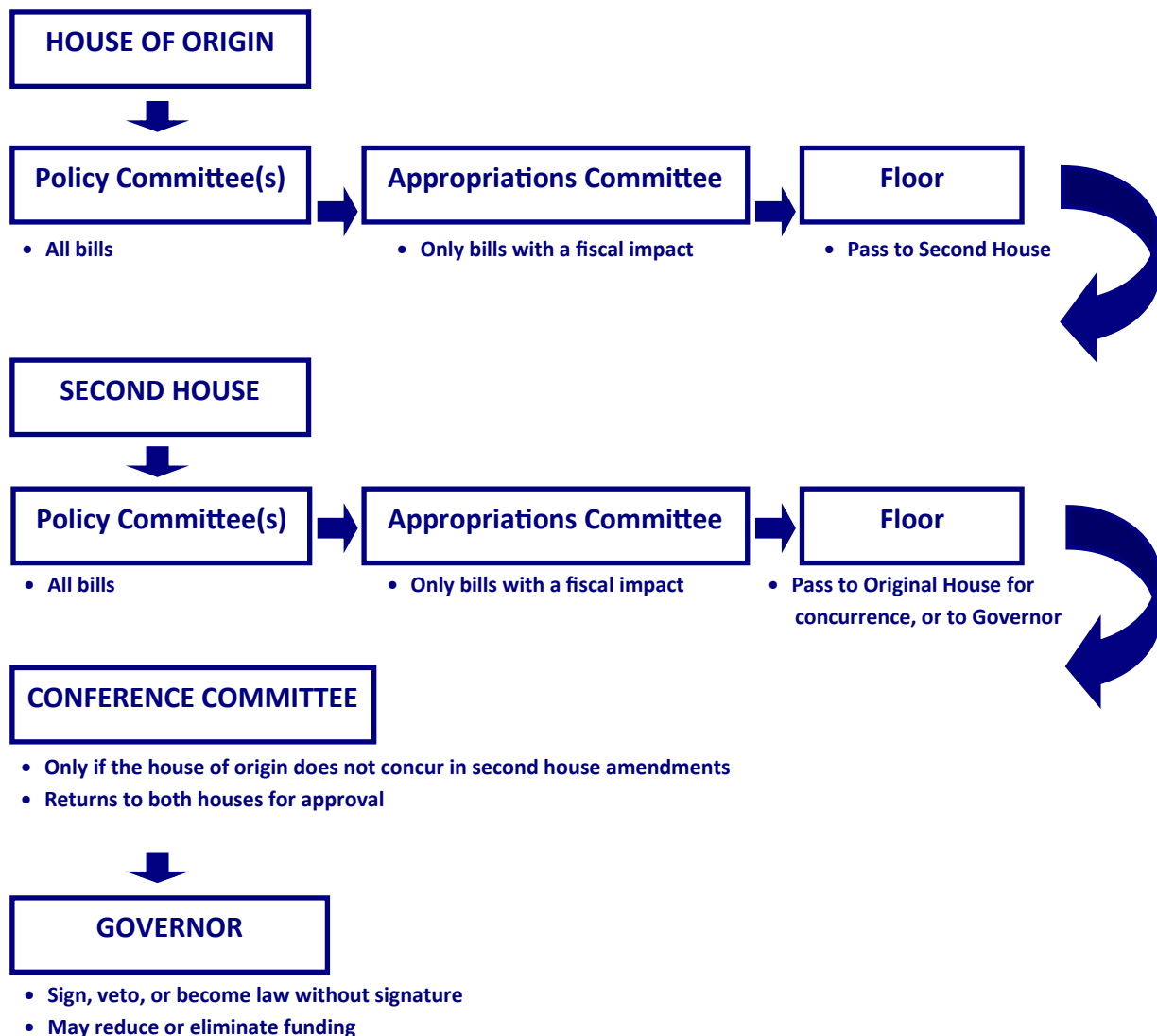
Children's Advocacy Institute
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW

A Primer

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

After introduction by a legislator, a bill is heard in the appropriate policy committee(s), and if it has a fiscal impact is then heard in the Appropriations Committee in the house of origin (either the Assembly or Senate). If a bill passes those committees, it is next voted upon by all members of that house (the “floor vote”). If the bill passes a floor vote in the house of origin, it then goes to the other house and begins the process all over again (policy committee(s), Appropriations Committee, and floor vote). At any of these points, the bill may be changed or “amended.” If the bill is amended in the second house, it must return for a second vote on the floor of the house of origin (the “concurrence vote”).

Once a bill passes both houses of the Legislature (and, if necessary, passes a concurrence vote in the house of origin), the Governor may sign it into law, veto it, or take no action within the constitutionally-prescribed time limit, thereby allowing it to become law without his/her signature. The only change a Governor may make in a bill, without sending it back to the Legislature, is to reduce or eliminate the money allocated in the bill.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Part 1: Year of the Veto

When reviewing how well children legislatively fared in 2023 in Sacramento, we could do worse than recalling the famous ending of Eliot’s poem “The Hollow Men”:

“This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.”

A year that began so promisingly ended with a business-as-usual, whimpering “thud” in the Fall when the Governor vetoed many widely supported and urgently needed bills uniquely benefiting children. His reasoning: California’s 2024 projected budget deficit — now around \$80 billion, give or take a billion — had come into sharper, actionable focus.

True. And CAI has not only supported fiscal responsibility in these pages in the past, but also urged lawmakers to view budget deficits as a deeply immoral cost shift from the wealthy elderly (who, among other advantages over the young, enjoy taxpayer-funded, single-payer health care and — in California — property tax protection) to politically feckless children who must someday literally pay for the interest and debt selfishly incurred by their already-wealthy elders. In essence, we have highlighted here that deficit spending is an upside down formation of the old phrase “from each according to his ability, to each according to his need.” Deficit spending takes from each according to their *inability* politically to resist it, and transfers wealth to those whose personal and generational bank accounts command the attention of elected officials.

California is constitutionally forbidden from deficit spending. So what ends up happening instead in Sacramento, with every economic downturn, is a different kind of burden shift onto children on the basis of what Sacramento insiders call “juice” — meaning who has political power, aka money.

Cue the vetoes. Cue two examples.

AB 249 (Holden). This bill, co-sponsored by Children Now and the Environmental Working Group, would have required community water systems that serve schoolsites with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families to test for lead at each potable water outlet in the public schools they serve. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), research shows that childhood lead exposure can seriously harm a child’s health and cause well-documented adverse effects, including brain and nervous system damage, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems, and hearing and speech problems. CDC is clear: there is no safe level of lead when it comes to children.

In 2018, data on lead testing from nearly 3,700 California schools revealed that four percent of schools tested — about 150 schools — recorded a lead level over 15 parts per billion (ppb). The analysis also showed that at 897 schools, at least one water outlet tested between 5 and 15 ppb.¹

Our children are by law currently compelled to attend schools that might be destroying their brains.

There was bi-partisan support for AB 249. The cost? Low tens of millions of dollars. The veto message in part reads as follows:

In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing.

With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

AB 1512 (Bryan). CAI co-sponsored this measure with many other child advocacy groups. In one of CAI's most successful campaigns, Amy Harfeld, CAI's Washington, D.C.-based National Policy Director, has spearheaded efforts across the nation to bring to the attention of legislators and the public the shameful and morally indefensible practice of states and counties secretly taking money belonging to abused and neglected children and using it to defray the cost of caring for them — an expense already paid for by separate state and federal tax dollars.

Here's how it happens. Children in foster care may be eligible for one or more federal Social Security Administration benefits programs, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for individuals with disabilities and Social Security survivor benefits for children and youth with a deceased parent.

¹ See Nico Savidge and Daniel J. Willis, *Gaps in California law requiring schools to test for lead could leave children at risk; New law prompts widespread testing for lead but limited action*, EdSource (Sept. 24, 2018) at <https://edsource.org/2018/gaps-in-california-law-requiring-schools-to-test-for-lead-could-leave-children-at-risk/602756>.

Under current law, California’s counties are only required to screen foster youth ages 16 and 17 for potential eligibility for SSI disability benefits. However, it is a common practice for counties to screen younger children as well for both SSI and survivor benefit eligibility. If a child is found to be eligible for such benefits, federal law requires the Social Security Administration to appoint a representative payee — a kind of trustee for the money — for the child. The representative payee is obligated by federal law to manage and use the beneficiary’s funds in the child beneficiary’s best interest (*e.g.*, use them to meet current unmet needs or conserve them for their beneficiary’s future needs).

For children, federal law provides a preference list for who the representative payee should be. Foster care agencies are at the bottom of the list. Parents, guardians, relatives, and even close friends all outrank them. But, shockingly, all over the nation, foster care agencies are appointed as representative payees, and they then take the children’s money for themselves rather than, for example, preserving some of it for a youth to use when they transition out of care at 18 or 21 years old, alone and without the support of a family.

So how do foster care agencies get around the inconvenient fact that almost everyone in a child’s life is legally prioritized above them to be selected as the representative payee for managing the child’s money?

They simply apply to serve as representative payee without telling anyone who might object — namely, the dependency court judge, the child, the child’s lawyer, CASA, relatives, etc. After the Social Security Administration approves these applications (as it routinely does as nobody who might object knows of the application), the agencies pocket the money. Pocketing somebody else’s money is never righteous. Here, it is horrifying.

Around 4,000 young people “age out” of the California foster care system each year. Many of these youth lack family or other support networks to assist them, and few have acquired the life skills necessary to become self-sufficient. Consequently, 25% of young adults who age out of foster care end up homeless or incarcerated within 18 months of exiting care. By definition, these children have been separated from their parents, and often lack contact with broader family members; they are functionally alone and more than any other category of children need financial resources.

This policy is cruelty, pure and simple.

How widespread is this practice? *CalMatters* reported that the Department of Child and Family Services in Los Angeles County collected about \$5.4 million in revenue for about 600 children in its care through this practice in 2021.²

² See Jeanne Kuang, *California counties siphon Social Security benefits from some foster kids*, *CalMatters* (July 22, 2022) at <https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2022/07/foster-care-youth-california/>.

Thanks in large part to Harfeld’s crusading work,³ states and localities all over the nation are banning this practice, once it is revealed to an aghast public. As of the end of 2023, 20 states and jurisdictions have taken action to varying degrees to preserve the federal benefits of foster youth. The press exposing it has been overwhelming and uniformly revolted by the practice.⁴

AB 1512 was California’s chance to join those states in acknowledging that this practice is wrong and must be stopped. There was no legislative opposition to the bill, and it was approved by the legislature without receiving a single “no” vote. The cost was estimated to be likely millions to tens of millions, since counties would no longer be able to steal the money of abused and neglected children to balance their books.

Governor Newsom vetoed it. The fiscal part of the veto message was, word for word, identical. Many, many veto messages on bills that would have benefitted children included this same, verbatim rationale.

But what are some initiatives that did get funding? Consider:

- In January, the Governor proposed spending \$22.1 million from the general fund to respond to the “potentially harmful and destructive” exotic fruit fly infestations across the state.
- The budget deal in 2023 allocated more than \$1 billion for programs in coastal resilience and clean energy.
- The same deal included a total of \$5.1 billion for transit over four years.
- The deal also included roughly \$380 million to reconstruct certain parts of San Quentin.

There was some good news for children, too. Low-income families needing child care through state programs will see their fees waived. School lunches are provided to every child that needs one.

But at the end of the who-gets-what budget day, the needs of children did not categorically come first. They always should.

³ More information on CAI’s campaign on this project, including personal stories from lived experience advocates and state-specific information, can be found at <https://www.sandiego.edu/cai/advocacy/youth-benefits/>.

⁴ CAI’s compilation of media coverage is available at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17sAL1JYHtBaWnTqRSpnGGI0Ja15vtkvkE11sAv0AgH8/edit#heading=h.g7tIncsu0gvt>.

Part 2: Social Media Reform

CAI continues to lead state efforts in California and nationally to prevent three corporations worth billions from knowingly damaging an entire generation mentally, emotionally, and physically. Suicides, child sex trafficking and abuse, bullying, death from drugs laced with fentanyl, eating disorders, etc. all recently spiked in ways never seen before. The spike perfectly coincided with the sharp and dramatic rise in the use of social media by children. Everyone from the Surgeon General, to President Biden, to GOP leaders, to research scientists, to medical professionals, to the Facebook whistleblower sharing disclosures from Facebook itself, all agree that social media practices that use neuroscience, and the use of AI to keep children's eyes online as long as possible to see as many ads as possible, are to blame.

CAI's efforts to protect children from the harms of social media have directly led to the enactment of two landmark bills, one in Utah addressing social media addiction, and the other in California — AB 1394 by child-champion Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, addressing social media's documented and utterly repugnant role in knowingly facilitating sex trafficking and abuse of children.⁵

California has enacted several important bills like AB 1394 — but many other ambitious bills have died. Governors in many states have championed or signed social media reform bills seeking to hold platforms broadly accountable for profiting from addiction, eating disorders, death from fentanyl, suicide, and sex trafficking and abuse. California's most wide-ranging law addressing child privacy, the Age-Appropriate Design Code Act, has been enjoined and CAI has helped author an *amicus curie* brief from child advocacy groups seeking reversal in the Ninth Circuit.

The tide is turning, however. Two California courts have recently and persuasively rejected Big Tech efforts to have cases pressing negligence-based, personal injury claims against the platforms thrown out of court. The state court trial judges have allowed these claims to proceed to discovery, where far more reform-driving evidence will likely be revealed.

In short and so far, the playbook written by Messrs. Ralph Nader and Bob Fellmeth (among others) that calls for leveraging news coverage, legislation, and litigation in re-enforcing combination and in the public interest is, grindingly, and slowly, working. Thanks to the work of CAI and many other child advocacy groups, whether in Congress or in the U.S. Supreme Court, a reckoning for the legal *status quo* looms.

⁵ For more information, visit <https://www.sandiego.edu/cai/advocacy/legislation/ab1394/>.

2023

SUBJECTS GRADED

Foster Care/Child Welfare

AB 20 (Gipson) would have expanded the circumstances in which a child or nonminor dependent may petition the juvenile dependency court for reinstatement of parental rights and revised provisions of law pertaining to post-adoption sibling contact. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 273 (Ramos) would have imposed specific requirements on social workers, probation officers, and juvenile courts when foster youth are missing from foster care to notify the youth's family and support systems about court hearings; safely return the youth to their placements; and further protect these vulnerable youth. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 426 (Jackson) authorizes the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to assess an immediate civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000 per day for providing unlicensed residential care to children and requires CDSS to inform the County Welfare Director and the Board of Supervisors by written notice identifying the legal compliance issues if a county is failing to comply with current law and CDSS determines that county action is necessary. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 438, Statutes of 2023).

AB 448 (Carrillo, J.) would have required a social worker to conduct a family-finding investigation to identify and locate adult relatives within 30 days after a child has been taken into temporary custody and would have made changes to reporting and documentation requirements for social workers and probation officers. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 723 (Quirk-Silva) defines “school of origin” for purposes of foster youth educational rights to remain enrolled in a school when a residential placement changes, to include placements in non-public, nonsectarian schools (NPSs), and requires an NPS, commencing in the 2024–25 school year, to provide assurances in its application for state certification that it agrees to serve as the school of origin of a foster youth and allow these students to continue their education in the school. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 13, 2023 (Chapter 812, Statutes of 2023).

AB 867 (Friedman) would have authorized a nonminor dependent to remain in extended foster care beyond the age of 21 until the county has provided the youth with the documents, information, and services needed for their transition. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 937 (McKinnor) requires a juvenile court to order, except in specified very limited circumstances, six additional months of reunification services to a parent or guardian when the court finds at a permanency review hearing that reasonable reunification services have not been provided to the parent or guardian. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8 (Chapter 458, Statutes of 2023).

AB 954 (Bryan) clarifies that a parent or guardian shall not be considered to be non-compliant with the court-ordered case plan when there is evidence that the parent or guardian is unable to pay for a court-ordered service, or when payment for a service would create an undue financial hardship to the parent or guardian. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 552, Statutes of 2023).

AB 1112 (McKinnor) would have required counties to expand eligibility for the foster youth clothing allowance benefit and the expectant parent benefit to include foster youth who do not reside in an approved placement. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 1512 (Bryan / Bauer-Kahan) would have required counties to take additional actions relating to foster youth eligibility for all federal Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits and prohibited counties from using a child's benefits to pay for any cost of the child's care. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 1756 (Committee on Judiciary), among other things, allows a juvenile court to retain jurisdiction when a foster youth under the jurisdiction of the court passes away, and requires the court to keep the cases open at the request of the child's attorney or any other party for the purposes of collecting relevant documents and information. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 478, Statutes of 2023).

SB 407 (Wiener) requires resource families to demonstrate an ability and willingness to meet the needs of a child, regardless of the child's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, and adds specified responsibilities to the California Department of Social Services and counties related to ensuring that foster youth will be placed with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or another diverse identity (LGBTQ)-affirming resource families. The Governor signed this bill on Sept. 23, 2023 (Chapter 226, Statutes of 2023).

SB 463 (Wahab) eliminates the evidentiary presumption in juvenile court that a parent or guardian's lack of participation or progress in a treatment program endangers the child, for purposes of determining whether the child should be returned to the parent or guardian's custody. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 10, 2023 (Chapter 714, Statutes of 2023).

SB 578 (Ashby) requires a social worker to report on, and a juvenile court to consider, the potential harms that may result from removing a child from their parent, guardian, or Indian custodian's custody; and, if the child is or there is reason to know the child is an Indian child, requires the social worker to report on what efforts have been made to contact the child's tribe. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 618, Statutes of 2023).

Child Protection

AB 253 (Maienschein) would have required the Department of Justice to submit an annual budget sufficient to fund the State Child Death Review Council and to fund county child death review teams. This bill died without a public vote in the Suspense File of the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 391 (Jones-Sawyer) requires an agency receiving a report from a person making a child abuse or neglect report, who is not a mandated reporter, to request specified information from the person making the report, including their name, telephone number, and information that gave rise to the suspicion of child abuse or neglect. If the reporter refuses to provide their name or telephone number, the bill requires the agency to make efforts to determine the basis for that refusal and to advise the reporter that the identifying information will remain confidential. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 434, Statutes of 2023).

SB 14 (Grove) designates human trafficking of a minor for purposes of a commercial sex act as a “serious felony,” making it a strike for purposes of the Three Strikes Law, except as specified. The Governor signed this bill on Sept. 25, 2023 (Chapter 230, Statutes of 2023).

Online Safety

AB 1394 (Wicks) requires social media platforms to provide a mechanism for users to report child sexual abuse material in which they are depicted; provides platforms 30 to 60 days after receiving a report to verify the content of the material and block it from reappearing, and provides victims of commercial sexual exploitation the right to sue social media platforms for having deployed features that were a substantial factor in causing their exploitation. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 579, Statutes of 2023).

Homeless Youth

AB 373 (Gipson) requires a local educational agency operating an intersession program to grant priority access to homeless and foster children and youth. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 7, 2023 (Chapter 327, Statutes of 2023).

AB 589 (Boerner) would have, until January 1, 2027 and upon appropriation by the Legislature, required the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish the Unicorn Homes Transitional Housing for Homeless LGBTQ+ Youth Program as a pilot to be administered by local community-based organizations in Sacramento and San Diego Counties. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 7, 2023.

Family Court

SB 331 (Rubio) prohibits a family court from ordering reunification treatments, programs, or services, including, but not limited to, camps, workshops, therapeutic vacations, or educational programs that, as a condition of enrollment, require or result in any of the following: a no-contact order; an overnight stay, out-of-state, or multiday stay; a transfer of physical or legal custody of the child; the use of private youth transporters or private transportation agents engaged in the use of force, threat of force, physical obstruction, acutely distressing circumstances, or circumstances that place the safety of the child at risk; or the use of threats of physical force, undue coercion, verbal abuse, intimidation, isolation from a child's family, community, or other sources of support, or other acutely distressing circumstances. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 13, 2023 (Chapter 865, Statutes of 2023).

SB 599 (Caballero) clarifies and strengthens provisions requiring a family court to take into account a parent's acts of domestic violence or child abuse or the issuance of a protective order against a parent when making orders for custody or visitation, as well as provisions requiring the court to take into account the fact that a party is staying in a domestic violence shelter or other confidential location when issuing orders for the time, day, place, and manner of visitation or transfer of a child. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 493, Statutes of 2023).

K-12 Education

AB 5 (Zbur) requires the California Department of Education to complete the development of an online training curriculum and online delivery platform by July 1, 2025, and requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide and require at least one hour of training annually to all certificated staff, beginning with the 2025–26 school year through the 2029–30 school year, on cultural competency in supporting LGBTQ+ students, and requires the LEA to maintain documentation on the completion of the training by each employee, as specified. The Governor signed this bill on Sept. 23, 2023 (Chapter 220, Statutes of 2023).

SB 274 (Skinner) prohibits the suspension or expulsion of a student enrolled in 6th through 12th grade in a public school on the basis of willful defiance until July 1, 2029, authorizes employees to refer students to school administrators for in-school interventions or supports, and requires that administrators document the actions taken in the student's record and inform the referring employee of those actions. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 597, Statutes of 2023).

Higher Education

AB 789 (Berman) requires, as part of the criteria to be deemed a qualifying institution of higher education (IHE) under the Cal Grant Program, an IHE, by the 2024–25 academic year, to comply with various requirements regarding "satisfactory academic progress" (SAP) standards used to determine if a student qualifies for a Cal Grant and to develop and implement policies defining SAP in a manner that is consistent with the federal standards. In so doing, the measure seeks to remove barriers that limit students' ability to keep their financial aid by establishing a common set of standards for SAP, including the appeals process, to ensure that all California students, regardless of the postsecondary educational institution they attend, are provided with the flexibility allowed under federal law. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 544, Statutes of 2023).

Child Development

AB 393 (Luz-Rivas) requires the Director of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to develop procedures for general or migrant childcare and development contractors to identify and report data on dual language learners (DLLs) in General Childcare and Development Programs or Migrant Childcare and Development Programs and further requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the CDSS Director to coordinate their efforts in developing procedures and reporting data regarding DLLs. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 435, Statutes of 2023).

Health/Safety/Well-Being

AB 223 (Ward) enhances protections for minors seeking changes of name or gender by making the proceedings presumptively confidential. The Governor signed this bill on Sept. 23, 2023 (Chapter 221, Statutes of 2023).

AB 249 (Holden) would have required, on or before January 1, 2027, a community water system that serves a schoolsite receiving federal Title I funds to test for lead in each of the schoolsite's potable water system outlets, and to report the results to the State Water Resources Control Board and applicable schoolsite or Local Educational Agency (LEA), and would have required LEAs or schoolsites, if lead levels exceed five parts per billion (ppb), to perform specified actions. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 289 (Holden) expands the list of local stakeholders with which a county mental health program is required to develop and update the three-year program and expenditure plan pursuant to the Mental Health Services Act. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 518, Statutes of 2023).

AB 418 (Gabriel), the California Food Safety Act, prohibits a person or entity, commencing January 1, 2027, from manufacturing, selling, delivering, distributing, holding, or offering for sale, in commerce a food product for human consumption that contains brominated vegeta-

ble oil (BVO); potassium bromate; propylparaben; or red dye 3. The bill makes a violation of these provisions punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for a first violation and not to exceed \$10,000 for each subsequent violation, upon an action brought by the Attorney General, a city attorney, a county counsel, or a district attorney. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 7, 2023 (Chapter 328, Statutes of 2023).

AB 608 (Schiavo) would have improved access to critical social and other supports for low-income mothers and infants during Medi-Cal’s 12-month postpartum eligibility period. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 7, 2023.

AB 665 (Carrillo, W.) increases equity in access to mental health care by ensuring that youth ages 12 and older using their Medi-Cal benefits need not meet a higher standard than their privately-insured peers in order to self-consent to outpatient mental health services. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 7, 2023 (Chapter 338, Statutes of 2023).

AB 1202 (Lackey). In response to an audit by the Bureau of State Audits examining low rates of children's preventive health care utilization in Medi-Cal, this bill would have required the Department of Health Care Services to provide actionable information about how many pediatric providers are needed for Medi-Cal managed care plans to comply with network adequacy and access standards for pediatric care for children enrolled in Medi-Cal. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 1226 (Haney). For an incarcerated person with a parent/child relationship with a child under 18 years of age, or who is a guardian or relative caregiver of a child, this bill requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to place the person in the correctional institution or facility that is located nearest to the primary place of residence of the person’s child, provided that the placement would be suitable and appropriate, would facilitate increased contact between the person and their child, and the incarcerated parent gives their consent to the placement. The Governor signed this bill on July 21, 2023 (Chapter 98, Statutes of 2023).

SB 10 (Cortese) requires school safety plans of schools, including charter schools, serving students in grades 7–12 to include a protocol for responding to a student's opioid overdose; requires the California Department of Education to post informational materials on its website on opioid overdose prevention; and encourages county offices of education to establish working groups on fentanyl education in schools. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 13, 2023 (Chapter 856, Statutes of 2023).

SB 509 (Portantino) would have required, by July 1, 2027, a local educational agency serving students in grades 7–12 to certify to the California Department of Education that 40% of its classified employees and 100% of its certificated employees have received youth behavioral health training identified by the CDE; and would have added instruction in mental health to the course of study for grades 1–6. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 13, 2023.

SB 608 (Becker) would have increased the fees for issuance and renewal of “Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help our Kids” (Kids’ Plate) license plates and revised the allocation of funds derived from that program. This bill died without a public vote in the Suspense File of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 635 (Menjivar), the Let California Kids Hear Act, would have required a health plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2025, to include coverage for hearing aids and related services for all enrollees and insureds under 21 years of age, if medically necessary; limited the maximum required coverage amount to \$3,000 per hearing aid; and prohibited hearing aids covered from being subject to a coinsurance, deductible or copayment requirement, or, subject to financial or treatment limitations, including a dollar limit set below \$3,000 per hearing aid. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 7, 2023.

Youth Justice

AB 505 (Ting) creates more opportunities for community involvement in local implementation of reforms realigning the state juvenile justice system and increases the authority of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration and the Juvenile Justice Ombudsperson to investigate juvenile facilities and allegations of violations of incarcerated youths' rights. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 528, Statutes of 2023).

AB 912 (Jones-Sawyer) would have allocated \$220 million for youth diversion, school-based mental health, and community violence reduction programs across the state. The Governor vetoed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023.

AB 1643 (Bauer-Kahan) increases the threshold amount of victim restitution which makes a minor presumptively ineligible for a program of informal supervision from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 13, 2023 (Chapter 850, Statutes of 2023).

SB 448 (Becker) prohibits the juvenile court from detaining a minor in custody solely because of the minor's county of residence and requires the court to give equal consideration to release on home supervision, regardless of the minor's county of residence. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 8, 2023 (Chapter 608, Statutes of 2023).

SB 545 (Rubio) prohibits the juvenile court from transferring a matter to a criminal court if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person against whom the minor is accused of committing an offense trafficked, sexually abused, or sexually battered the minor; requires a criminal court to transfer a matter back to the juvenile court if the criminal court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person against whom the minor is accused of committing an offense trafficked, sexually abused, or sexually battered the minor, and evidence pertaining to the minor's status as a victim of trafficking, sexual abuse, or sexual battery was not available or argued before the transfer hearing; requires these provisions to be construed as prioritizing the successful treatment and rehabilitation of minor sex crime victims who commit acts of violence against their abusers; and provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that these minors be viewed as victims and provided treatment and services in the juvenile or family court system. The Governor signed this bill on Oct. 10, 2023 (Chapter 716, Statutes of 2023).

How Legislators Were Graded

METHODOLOGY







The bills included in this Report Card would improve current law for children. An “AYE” vote on those measures represents a vote for children and is indicated by a ★.

Legislators are elected to do many things, but the most important is the simplest: vote on bills. This is reflected in the very way our system is constituted. When a legislator is absent or fails to record a vote, the required vote threshold to enact legislation does not go down; a majority of all of those eligible to vote is needed to enact legislation. Thus, a failure to vote on a measure has the identical effect as a “no” vote. For that reason, the scores on our Report Card reflect the percentage of “aye” votes each legislator cast on the bills presented while each legislator held his/her seat. If a legislator was excused by legislative leadership at the time a floor vote took place, the bill is excluded from the legislator’s raw eligible bill count and will not count toward the legislator’s “vote for kids” percentage.

Further, we understand that when seeking to hold elected officials publicly accountable for their comparative commitment to children through the process of issuing a Report Card, it is important that the mechanics of this effort not result in portraits of legislators we know subjectively to be erroneous. Not all votes in reality are do-or-die for the passage of a bill. Sometimes the critical vote is in committee, and not at the floor vote stage. Sometimes the floor vote is not close and a member knows a bill will pass without his/her vote, and that he/she can take care of personal or other business without imperiling the fate of the bill. For that reason, the “modified aye” column in the following grid reflects each legislator’s “aye” vote percentage excluding excused absences and bills for which no vote was recorded where the vote was not close (*i.e.*, the bill passed with a margin of at least 5 votes in the Senate and 10 votes in the Assembly). This modified “aye” vote percentage is provided to the extent the reader feels the factors noted above properly influence a judgment on the performance of legislators.

The *Children’s Legislative Report Card* evaluates final floor votes on bills affecting children. When bills were amended in the second house, the concurrence vote in the house of origin was used to compute those legislators’ scores, so the votes displayed reflect votes on the same version of the bill.

Votes and attendance were tallied from the Assembly and Senate Daily Journals and the California Legislative Information website (<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>).

	The Legislator recorded an “aye” vote on a pro-child measure.
	The Legislator recorded a “no” vote on a pro-child measure.
	The Legislator did not record a vote for this bill and had an excused absence. The bill is excluded from the eligible bill total and does not count toward the Legislator’s raw or modified “Votes for Kids” percentages.
	The Legislator did not record a vote and did not have an excused absence, but the vote was not close. The bill is excluded from the eligible bill total for purposes of the modified aye “Votes for Kids” percentage.
	The Legislator did not record a vote and did not have an excused absence, and the vote was close (counts as a “NO” vote).
	Vacancy; the Legislator was not in office at the time of this vote. The bill is excluded from the eligible bill total and does not count toward the Legislator’s raw or modified “Votes for Kids” percentages.

2023 CHILDREN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

		LEGISLATOR*																												Foster Care / Child Welfare																												Child Protection																												Online Safety																												Homeless Youth																												Family Court																												K-12 Education																												AB 5 (Zbur)																												SB 274 (Skinner)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
		AB 20 (Gipson)																												AB 273 (Ramos)																												AB 426 (Jackson)																												AB 448 (Carrillo, J.)																												AB 723 (Quirk-Silva)																												AB 867 (Friedman)																												AB 937 (McKinnor)																												AB 954 (Bryan)																												AB 1112 (McKinnor)																												AB 1512 (Bryan)																												AB 1756 (Comm. on Judic.)																												SB 407 (Wiener)																												SB 463 (Wahab)																												SB 578 (Ashby)																																																								AB 253 (Marienschein)																												AB 391 (Jones-Sawyer)																												SB 14 (Grove)																																																								AB 1394 (Wicks)																																																								AB 373 (Gipson)																												B 589 (Boerner)																																																								SB 331 (Rubio)																												SB 599 (Caballero)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			

* Assembly and Senate membership as of Aug. 31, 2023.

2023 CHILDREN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

Higher Education	AB 789 (Berman)	Child Development	AB 393 (Luz-Rivas)	Health / Safety / Well-Being	AB 223 (Ward)	AB 249 (Holden)	AB 289 (Holden)	AB 418 (Gabriel)	AB 608 (Schrawo)	AB 665 (Carrillo, W.)	AB 1202 (Lackey)	AB 1226 (Haney)	SB 10 (Cortese)	SB 509 (Portantino)	SB 608 (Becker)	SB 635 (Menjivar)	Youth Justice	AB 505 (Ting)	AB 912 (Jones-Sawyer)	AB 1643 (Bauer-Kahan)	SB 448 (Becker)	SB 545 (Rubio)	AYE Votes for Kids	Raw Eligible Bill Total*	Raw AYE Vote %**	Modified Eligible Bill Total*	Modified AYE Vote %**	LEGISLATOR*
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Allen, Ben
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	37	41	90%	40	93%	Alvarado-Gil, Marie
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Archuleta, Bob
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	42	95%	Ashby, Angelique
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Atkins, Toni
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Becker, Josh
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Blakespear, Catherine
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Bradford, Steven
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	16	17	94%	17	94%	Caballero, Anna
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Cortese, Dave
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	32	42	76%	38	84%	Dahle, Brian
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Dodd, Bill
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Durazo, Maria Elena
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Eggman, Susan Talamantes
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Glazer, Steven
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Gonzalez, Lena
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	27	42	64%	33	82%	Grove, Shannon
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	38	42	90%	40	95%	Hurtado, Melissa
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	31	42	74%	41	76%	Jones, Brian
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Laird, John
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Limon, Monique
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	McGuire, Mike
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Menjivar, Caroline
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Min, Dave
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Newman, Josh
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	29	42	69%	38	76%	Nguyen, Janet
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	29	42	69%	39	74%	Niello, Roger
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	33	42	79%	38	87%	Ochoa Bogh, Rosilicie
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	39	40	98%	40	98%	Padilla, Steve
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Portantino, Anthony
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Roth, Richard
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Rubio, Susan
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	31	42	74%	41	76%	Seyarto, Kelly
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Skinner, Nancy
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Smallwood-Cuevas, Lola
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Stern, Henry
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Umberg, Thomas
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Wahab, Aisha
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Wiener, Scott
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	33	42	79%	41	80%	Wilk, Scott
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Addis, Dawn
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Aguar-Curry, Cecilia
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	32	42	76%	37	86%	Alanis, Juan
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	39	41	95%	40	98%	Alvarez, David
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	39	41	95%	40	98%	Arambula, Dr. Joaquin
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	39	42	93%	40	98%	Bains, Dr. Jasmeet
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	35	41	85%	36	97%	Bauer-Kahan, Rebecca
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Bennett, Steve
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Berman, Marc
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Boerner Horvath, Tasha
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Bonta, Mia
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Bryan, Isaac
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Calderon, Lisa
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Carrillo, Juan
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Carrillo, Wendy
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	39	40	98%	40	98%	Cervantes, Sabrina
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	25	42	60%	30	83%	Chen, Phillip
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Connelly, Damon
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	26	42	62%	35	74%	Dahle, Megan
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	29	42	69%	37	78%	Davies, Laurie

* Total bills available for vote by each house (42) minus the legislator's excused absences and office vacancies.

** The number of "aye" votes divided by the legislator's raw eligible bill total.

Total bills available for vote by each house (42) minus the legislator's excused absences, office vacancies, and "no vote recorded" on votes that were not close (see Methodology).

The number of "aye" votes divided by the legislator's modified eligible bill total.

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

18

2023 CHILDREN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

	Higher Education	AB 789 (Berman)	Child Development	AB 393 (Luc-Rivas)	Health / Safety / Well-Being	AB 223 (Ward)	AB 249 (Holden)	AB 289 (Holden)	AB 418 (Gabriel)	AB 608 (Schiavo)	AB 665 (Carrillo)	AB 1202 (Lackey)	AB 1226 (Haney)	SB 10 (Cortese)	SB 509 (Portantino)	SB 608 (Becker)	SB 635 (Menivar)	Youth Justice	AB 505 (Ting)	AB 912 (Jones-Sawyer)	AB 1643 (Bauer-Kahan)	SB 448 (Becker)	SB 545 (Rubio)	AYE Votes for Kids	Raw Eligible Bill Total*	Raw AYE Vote %**	Modified Eligible Bill Total*	Modified AYE Vote %**	LEGISLATOR*
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	29	42	69%	36	81%	Dixon, Diane
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	24	38	63%	32	75%	Essayli, Bill
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	28	42	67%	34	82%	Flora, Heath
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Fong, Mike
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	25	41	61%	34	74%	Fong, Vince
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Friedman, Laura
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Gabriel, Jesse
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	26	42	62%	31	84%	Gallagher, James
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Garcia, Eduardo
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Gipson, Mike
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	38	40	95%	39	97%	Grayson, Timothy
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Haney, Matt
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Hart, Gregg
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Holden, Chris
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	31	41	76%	37	84%	Hoover, Josh
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Irwin, Jacqui
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Jackson, Corey
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	39	42	93%	40	98%	Jones-Sawyer, Reginald
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Kalra, Ash
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	26	42	62%	31	84%	Lackey, Tom
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Lee, Alex
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Low, Evan
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Lowenthal, Josh
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Maienschein, Brian
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	28	42	67%	38	74%	Mathis, Devon
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	39	41	95%	40	98%	McCarthy, Kevin
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	McKinnor, Tina
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Muratsuchi, Al
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	38	42	90%	39	97%	Nguyen, Stephanie
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	39	40	98%	40	98%	Ortega, Liz
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Pacheco, Blanca
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Papan, Diane
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	26	41	63%	33	79%	Patterson, Jim
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	30	42	71%	39	77%	Patterson, Joe
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Pellerin, Gail
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Petrie-Norris, Cottie
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	37	41	90%	38	97%	Quirk-Silva, Sharon
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Ramos, James
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Rendon, Anthony
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Reyes, Eloise
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Rivas, Luz
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Rivas, Robert
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Rodriguez, Freddie
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Rubio, Blanca
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	25	42	60%	35	71%	Sanchez, Kate
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Santiago, Miguel
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Schiavo, Pilar
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	39	42	93%	40	98%	Soria, Esmeralda
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	27	42	64%	33	82%	Ta, Tri
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Ting, Philip
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Valencia, Avelino
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	38	42	90%	39	97%	Villapudua, Carlos
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	34	40	85%	37	92%	Waldron, Marie
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	35	42	83%	39	90%	Wallis, Greg
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	39	40	98%	40	98%	Ward, Christopher
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Weber, Akilah
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	41	42	98%	42	98%	Wicks, Buffy
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	41	98%	41	98%	Wilson, Lori
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	39	42	93%	40	98%	Wood, Jim
	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	na	★		★	★	★	★	★	40	42	95%	41	98%	Zbur, Rick

* Total bills available for vote by each house (42) minus the legislator's excused absences and office vacancies.

** The number of "aye" votes divided by the legislator's raw eligible bill total.

Total bills available for vote by each house (42) minus the legislator's excused absences, office vacancies, and "no vote recorded" on votes that were not close (see Methodology).

The number of "aye" votes divided by the legislator's modified eligible bill total.



Children's Advocacy Institute
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW

Locations

San Diego

University of San Diego School of Law
5998 Alcalá Park / San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 260-4806 / Fax: (619) 260-4753

Sacramento

(916) 844-5646

Washington, D.C.

(917) 371-5191

Email: info@caichildlaw.org

Website: www.caichildlaw.org

CAI Staff

Robert C. Fellmeth *Executive Director*
Price Professor of Public Interest Law, USD School of Law

Melanie Delgado *Senior Staff Attorney / Director of Transition Age Youth Projects*

Katie Gonzalez *Assistant Director, Public Interest Law Communications*

Amy Harfeld *National Policy Director / Senior Staff Attorney*

Jessica Heldman, *Fellmeth-Peterson Associate Professor in Child Rights*

Ed Howard *Senior Counsel*

Ben Sims *Executive Assistant*

Elisa Weichel *Administrative Director / Senior Staff Attorney*

The Children's Advocacy Institute is part of the
Centers for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego School of Law.

© 2024 by the Children's Advocacy Institute



University of San Diego®
SCHOOL OF LAW