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March 28, 2019

The Honorable Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel  
Member of the Assembly, 45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0045

Re: AB 330 (Gabriel) as Introduced on January 31, 2019  
Position: Support

Dear Assembly Member Gabriel,

On behalf of the California Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, a non-profit organization with 683 members who are certified as family law specialists by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization, I write to support Assembly Bill 330, as introduced.

AB 330 seeks to amend Section 68651 of the Government Code and authorizes the Judicial Council to provide grants for pilot projects that provide legal counsel to low-income persons in matters involving child custody, when the parent is seeking to obtain any level of legal or physical custody, and would require that up to 20% of the available funds be directed at projects regarding parents seeking to obtain any level of legal or physical custody of a child. The bill also would place the highest priority for funding on proposals to provide counsel in child custody cases, irrespective of whether one side is represented and the other is not. This bill basically expands the scope of the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act and access to programs created under that act.

ACFLS believes that providing legal counsel to low-income persons in matters involving child custody increases access to justice

and helps the judicial process move more efficiently. California courts consider a child's best interests paramount in any child custody decision they make. Attorneys are usually better equipped than self-represented litigants in getting the issues framed appropriately, dealing with and navigating the complexities of the law, and providing the judicial officer with the information he or she needs in order to make a custody determination that is in a child's best interest.

For these reasons, ACFLS supports AB 330, as introduced.

Respectfully submitted,



AVI LEVY, CFLS  
Legislative Director, ACFLS