



Assembly Bill (AB) 2665: Equity in Family Services Intervention

SUMMARY

AB 2665 addresses racial disparities in the child welfare system by utilizing a blind removal strategy that redacts information from the case summary, in order to eliminate implicit bias in the decision-making process determining whether children are removed from their parents' home.

BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM

Racial disproportionality and disparity have been long standing issues within the child welfare system and the continued overrepresentation of children of color in the foster care system is troubling. These issues persist despite increased awareness and research on racial inequities in the child welfare system. Eliminating the racial disproportionality and disparities in the child welfare system must begin long before a maltreatment allegation is made. Far too many low-income families of color come to the attention of child welfare agencies because of their socioeconomic status and through their interactions with social service providers. Because socioeconomic status and child welfare involvement are highly correlated, many attribute disproportionality and disparity in the system to high levels of poverty among certain communities of color.

SOLUTION

AB 2665 requires the State Department of Social Services to establish a *blind removal* pilot project in up to 5 counties. Participating counties must be inclusive of Southern, Northern, and rural areas. Additionally, an

evaluation report on the impact and effectiveness of the pilot must be submitted to the Legislature.

In order to reduce the potential for implicit bias, during and only at the time of the removal decision-making process the following information will be redacted:

- 1. Name of the child and parent(s)
- 2. Gender of the child and parent(s)
- 3. Race/Ethnicity of the child and parent(s)
- 4. Sexual orientation of the child and parent(s)
- 5. Address of the child and parent(s)
- 6. Income of the of the child's parent(s)

SUPPORT

- Children's Law Center of California (Co-sponsor)
- Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (Co-sponsor)
- Parenting for Liberation (Co-sponsor)
- Parent Voices Action (Co-sponsor)
- The Women's Foundation of CA, Solis Policy Institute (Co-sponsor)
- Association of African American California Judicial Officers
- California Youth Connection
- Juvenile Court Judges of California

STAFF CONTACT

Natalee Vicencia, Legislative Director
916.319.2051, natalee.vicencia@asm.ca.gov