

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 495**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Celeste Rodriguez**

February 10, 2025

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An act relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 495, as introduced, Celeste Rodriguez. Public social services: children.

Existing law expresses the intent of the Legislature to preserve and strengthen a child’s family ties whenever possible and to remove a child from the custody of their parents only when necessary for their welfare or for the safety and protection of the public. Existing law establishes procedures to determine the placement of a dependent child when they are removed from the custody of the dependent child’s parent or guardian and requires foster care placements, if possible, be made in the home of a relative unless the placement would not be in the best interest of the child.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to encourage facilities and agencies that serve children and families to implement family safety plans in the event that a noncitizen parent or guardian of a dependent child is detained or deported. The bill would also express findings and declarations of the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the  
2 following:  
3     (1) Children of noncitizens of the United States should not be  
4 left abandoned.  
5     (2) Section 16000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code expresses  
6 the intent of the Legislature to preserve and strengthen a child's  
7 family ties whenever possible and to remove a child from the  
8 custody of their parents only when necessary for their welfare or  
9 for the safety and protection of the public. Additionally, for foster  
10 care placements, Section 7950 of the Family Code requires that,  
11 if possible, the placement of dependent children be in the home  
12 of a relative, unless the placement would not be in the best interest  
13 of the child.  
14     (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to enact  
15 legislation to encourage facilities and agencies that serve children  
16 and families to implement family safety plans in the event that a  
17 noncitizen parent or guardian of a dependent child is detained or  
18 deported.