

June 20, 2023

The Honorable Susan Rubio
1021 O Street, Room 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 331 (Rubio) Child custody: child abuse and safety
Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Susan Rubio,

The City of Carson City Council is proud to support your Senate Bill 331 - Piqui's Law, which would further protect victims and children in family court.

Piqui's Law is named after a 5-year-old boy who was murdered by his father on April 21, 2017. Ana Estevez, the mother of Piqui, fought hard in the California family court to protect her child from her abusive ex-husband and father of Piqui. Despite her efforts, the family court refused to implement supervised visitation, which led to her son's tragic death.

In March of 2022, President Joe Biden signed the reauthorization of Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), which included new groundbreaking provisions, known as Kayden's Law, to improve child safety laws in family court. Under this legislation, federal funding is allocated to states that adopt child custody and domestic violence statutes to further prioritize child safety as outlined in VAWA.

Senate Bill 331 will help protect victims and children of domestic violence and child abuse by requiring critical judicial training and reporting, banning dangerous court-ordered programs, limiting testimony to expert witnesses and prioritizing child safety and well-being. The number of children murdered by an abusive parent continues to rise across the nation. It is time to strengthen the California laws to protect victims and children in family court.

For these reasons, the City of Carson supports SB 331 (Rubio).

Sincerely,

City of Carson City Council