

2026 Children Now Child Welfare Bills

AB 1602 (Rubio) Foster youth: Disaster Aid Assistance

This bill would establish a statewide Child Welfare Disaster Response Fund that ensures resources are immediately available to disaster-impacted communities to mitigate the urgent needs of children and youth in foster care and their caregivers.

Corresponding budget request of \$800,000 (one-time)

Co-sponsors: California Youth Connection and California Alliance of Caregivers

SB 1051 (Menjivar) Foster care: Child care

This bill would allow Emergency Child Care Bridge Navigators to submit referrals to county child welfare agencies for approval of child care vouchers for eligible foster children and alleviate some of the pressure on social workers by allowing another trusted partner working with the child and family to leverage this critical support. It will strengthen the original intent of the Bridge Program, ensuring child care is not a barrier to keeping children in safe, stable family homes.

Co-Sponsors: Child Care Resource Center, Alliance for Children's Rights, CWDA, Thriving Families California, Crystal Stairs, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, and California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

