

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1226 (Haney) - Keep Families Close Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1226, Keep Families Close**  
4 **Act, authored by Assembly Member Matt Haney, to require the California Department of**  
5 **Corrections and Rehabilitation to respect the rights of minor children to remain in**  
6 **contact with their incarcerated parents.**

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8 WHEREAS, Parents and caregivers play a critical role in the development of their  
9 children and data shows that up until the age of 18, frequent contact between the child and  
10 their parent is crucial for the child’s behavioral and emotional development; and

11 WHEREAS, Currently, about 195,000 children have incarcerated parents in California  
12 state prisons; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to sudden separation from their caregiver, children with incarcerated  
14 parents experience unique issues such as antisocial behavior and drug abuse, however,  
15 children who are able to maintain contact with their parents, experience less severe harmful  
16 impacts; and

17 WHEREAS, The existing law requires the California Department of Corrections and  
18 Rehabilitation (CDCR) to conduct assessments and examinations of all inmates who are  
19 newly committed to a state prison that include investigation of all pertinent circumstances of  
20 the person’s life, including, but not limited to, data regarding the inmate’s history of substance  
21 abuse, medical and mental health, education, family background, criminal activity, and social  
22 functioning; and

23 WHEREAS, The existing law requires the Secretary of the Department of Corrections  
24 and Rehabilitation to assign a prisoner to the institution of the appropriate security level and

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1 gender population nearest the prisoner’s home, unless other classification factors make such  
2 a placement unreasonable; and

3 WHEREAS, In a large state like California, there are thousands of incarcerated parents  
4 who are placed more than 500 miles from their children; and

5 WHEREAS, Incarcerated mothers, in particular, struggle to maintain contact with their  
6 children as more than half of incarcerated mothers do not receive any visits from their children  
7 while they are in prison; and

8 WHEREAS, The single most significant reason for the lack of contact is the children’s  
9 distance from their mothers’ prisons, many of which are located far from major cities; and

10 WHEREAS, Research shows that children with incarcerated mothers particularly  
11 struggle with behavioral health issues, which underscores the need for children to maintain  
12 contact with their incarcerated parents, especially mothers; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2019, CDCR released information that only 25% of incarcerated people  
14 in California state prisons are placed in institutions less than 100 miles from home; and

15 WHEREAS, The long distances place a burden on families who do not have the  
16 financial means or the time to travel across the state for family visits and visitation falls off  
17 significantly the farther from home a person is incarcerated; and

18 WHEREAS, 50% of people placed less than 50 miles away from home receive frequent  
19 family visitation, but only 15% of people placed 500 miles away receive visitors; and

20 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 1226 (AB 1226), the Keep Families Close Act, authored  
21 by Assembly Member Matt Haney (AD-17) will require the CDCR to respect the rights of minor  
22 children to remain in contact with their incarcerated parents and place any newly incarcerated  
23 parent, legal guardian, or caregiver of a minor child in the correctional facility closest to that  
24 child’s home; and

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1           WHEREAS, AB 1226 will also allow already incarcerated parents to request a transfer  
2 to a prison closer to their child’s home; and

3           WHEREAS, AB 1226 has bipartisan support at the California State Legislature and  
4 recently passed out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee on March 27, 2023,  
5 unanimously; and

6           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports California  
7 State Assembly Bill No. 1226, the Keep Families Together Act, and urges the California State  
8 Legislature to pass this bill to make it easier between children and their incarcerated parents  
9 to maintain contact and build their relationship while the parent is serving their term in an  
10 institution closest to their child’s home; and, be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the  
12 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California Senate President pro Tempore  
13 Toni Atkins, California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Governor Gavin Newsom, and  
14 the Bill’s primary sponsor, Assembly Member Matt Haney.

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