



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

August 28, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
1021 O Street, Suite 5650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 331 (Rubio) Child custody: child abuse and safety  
**City of Beverly Hills – Support**

Dear Chair Holden,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in **SUPPORT** of **SB 331 (Rubio)**. This bill, entitled Piqui's Law, is named for just one of 851 children nationwide who have been murdered by a divorcing or separating parent since 2008, according to statistics collected by the Center for Judicial Excellence. Piqui's law, would prohibit a court from ordering certain methods of outpatient counseling in child custody and visitation proceedings; modifies and expands judicial training programs on child abuse and family violence prevention; and clarifies requirements for admitting expert testimony in cases of domestic violence or child abuse.

Existing law requires the Judicial Council to establish judicial training programs for judges and other court personnel whose work involves domestic violence. Additionally, existing law also requires the training programs to cover general topics. This bill provides a somewhat more specific list of topics that must be covered when providing judicial training programs to judges.

SB 331 aims to keep child safety the top priority in family court by reducing instances of parent-inflicted domestic violence by amending existing law in three areas: (1) judicial training and reporting; (2) expert witnesses; and (3) court-ordered counseling.

The bill also clarifies existing law on expert witness testimony to require experts testifying in custody cases involving allegations of domestic violence or child abuse must possess special knowledge with demonstrated expertise or experience in working directly with victims of domestic violence or child abuse, including child sexual abuse.

Furthermore, the bill would impose limitations on the court's authority to order outpatient counseling in certain child custody and visitation disputes. Under existing law, the court may order outpatient counseling for the parents and the minor child with a licensed mental health professional, for up to one year.

SB 331 is a critical step to keeping our children safer while also combating domestic violence in California. It is for these reasons that the City of Beverly Hills **SUPPORTS SB 331 (Rubio)** and respectfully requests an "AYE" vote when heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julian" being the most prominent.

Julian A. Gold, M.D.  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Susan Rubio, Senator, 22<sup>nd</sup> District  
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51<sup>st</sup> District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange