

09-0002-575

**RESOLUTION**

APR 29 2009

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has the highest number of foster youth of any City in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as of December 2007, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services reported that approximately 8,341 foster youth were enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD); and

WHEREAS, Latino students comprised the largest proportion of foster youth (57 percent) and while African-American students comprised 11 percent of the overall LAUSD student body, 35 percent of foster students were African-American; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that foster youth are moved to a new place of residence once every six months and recent research suggests that they lose an average of four to six months of educational attainment each time a residential move occurs accompanied by a change in school placement; and

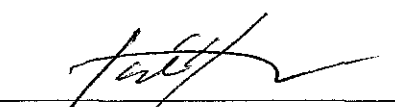
WHEREAS, these educational disruptions and other obstacles lead to foster youth frequently falling behind in school; and

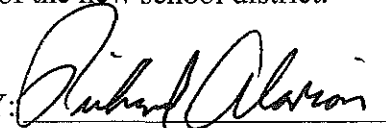
WHEREAS, according to a recent report by the Child Welfare League of America, the number of changes in a youths' foster placement creates at least one severe academic skill delay, which leads to lower graduation rates for foster youth; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 50 percent of foster youth graduate from high school compared with 70 percent of their peers, and of these high school graduates, only 20 percent enroll in post-secondary education compared to 60 percent of their peers; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the State Assembly is AB 167 (Adams) which would allow foster youth in grades 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> who have transferred to a new school district to earn a high school diploma based on state graduation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-2010 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of AB 167 (Adams), which would permit foster children who transition to a new school district in their junior or senior year to be only required to meet state standards for high school graduation and not the graduation requirements that may be imposed by the governing body of the new school district.

PRESENTED BY:   
**JOSE HUIZAR**  
 Councilmember 14<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

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