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TEMPLATE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SB 799 (The Family Dignity Act)

1. Please include your organization's letterhead/logo and complete highlighted sections.
2. Please submit your letter to the Portal: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>
3. Send a copy to admin@theplace4grace.org

(Date)

Senate Public Safety Committee
California State Senate
1021 O St., Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: The Family Dignity Act SB 799 (Support)

Dear Honorable Senate Public Safety Chair and Commissioners,

On behalf of **[ORGANIZATION]**, I write in strong support of SB 799 - The Family Dignity Act by Senator Durazo. SB 799 is headed to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. This bill would require the department to, upon request by a visitor, scan certain documents into the Strategic Offender Management Systems (SOMS), including, among other documents, a birth certificate for a visiting minor, as specified. The bill would require the department to allow a visitor for an in-person visit or an approved family visit to bring certain items for the visit, including, among other things, items for infants and toddlers.

[Include 1-2 sentences to briefly describe your organization: You may include how many people you serve and where, how many people you employ and where, why you support SB 799, etc.]

There are approximately 97,000 people incarcerated in California's prisons. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

Families and friends travel to prisons each week and have to carry documents that most have filed away for protection and privacy. These same people have been turned away from visiting their incarcerated loved ones for misplacing birth certificates, marriage licenses, and identification cards. In some cases even when the correction staff are familiar with them.

Furthermore, The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation currently does not allow families to bring in several items that allow visiting community members to be comfortable. When an infant/toddler aged child visits a California prison, the limitation on food items, toys, and objects of stimulation have been minimalized.

SB 799 would innovate and highlight what rehabilitation looks like for prisons in California. [Name/organization] writes this letter in strong support of the Dignity Act SB 799. We are encouraging an “Aye vote” from Senate Public Safety. Thank you.

Respectfully,

[Insert Your Full Name]

[Insert Your Title]

[Insert Your Organization's Name]