

**CAL POLY HUMBOLDT**  
**University Senate**

**Sense of the Senate Resolution on**  
**Supporting California Assembly Bill 273 on the Inclusion of Tribes to Locate and Support**  
**Missing Foster Youth**

20-22/23-EX — March 07, 2023

**WHEREAS:** In 2021, the California Legislature enacted the Feather Alert System (AB 1314, Chapter 476, Statutes of 2021) to aid in the location of an Indigenous person who has gone missing under suspicious circumstances, been abducted or kidnapped; and

**WHEREAS:** Some children and non-minor dependants who are in the care, custody, and control of the state go missing while in foster care; and

**WHEREAS:** While counties have been required to develop policies and procedures to locate and respond to youth who go missing from foster care since 2016, those practices don't require oversight of the court, and the notification of family members, tribes or tribal representatives, or other supportive adults is sporadic and inconsistent, and

**WHEREAS:** Existing law requires county child welfare agencies and probation departments to develop and implement specific protocols to quickly locate any child missing from foster care, including:

- describing the efforts used by county child welfare or probation staff to expeditiously locate any child or nonminor dependent missing from care;
- requiring the social worker or probation officer to determine the primary factors that contributed to the child running away or going missing and addressing those factors in subsequent placements;
- determining the child's experiences while absent from care and whether they were a victim of commercial sexual exploitation, and provide appropriate services;
- reporting to the appropriate law enforcement authority for entry into the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children within 24 hours of becoming aware that a child or youth who is receiving child welfare services and who is known or suspected to be the victim of commercial sexual exploitation is missing or has been abducted; and

**WHEREAS:** county practices are routinely out of compliance with federal and state statutes, as well as the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) minimum standards guidance required for compliance set forth in All County Letter 16-15; and

**WHEREAS:** [California Assembly Bill 273](#) (Ramos) will protect children by creating a more family-centered and child-focused process to locate, return, and stabilize children and youth who go missing while in the care, custody, and control of the child welfare system by:

- Requiring notification to family members, court appointed counsel, tribes and tribal representatives and the court of jurisdiction when a child or nonminor dependent is missing, and
- Expediting status review hearings for children who are missing to promote collaborative efforts by the county social workers/probation officers, courts and other supportive adults to locate, place and stabilize children and nonminor dependents when they return.

**RESOLVED,** That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt supports AB 273 (Ramos), which will help to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons by requiring collaborative efforts and due diligence by county social workers/probation officers, courts and other supportive adults to locate, place and stabilize children and youth when they return, with a particular focus on the inclusion of tribes and tribal representatives to address the crisis of missing indigenous youth, children and non-minor dependents who are the most vulnerable of becoming missing. ; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That this resolution be distributed to the following:

- Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, Assembly Member Brian Maienschein,
- Author of AB 273 - Assembly Member James C. Ramos,
- CSU Campus Senate Chairs
- CFA Director of Government Relations - Bryan Ha
- CFA Director for Anti-Racism & Social Justice