

# Transform CPS:



# Protect Children & Restore Families

*Every year the child welfare system removes thousands of children from their homes and destroys families. This system primarily punishes Black families, Indigenous families, families with disabilities, and low-income families. Children in foster care are more likely to have low academic performance and experience incarceration and homelessness.*

**We demand a system that protects families and provides resources rather than punishment.**

## **WE DEMAND:**

### **1. Defense, Due Process, and System Accountability**

Provide proper due process for families in the child welfare system. Provide free legal assistance to parents under investigation. Separate child welfare processes from law enforcement. Create accountability systems for social workers, investigators, and those reporting misconduct.

### **2. Decriminalization and Diversion**

In collaboration with community colleges, develop free & accessible programs for parents that are non-stigmatizing. Decriminalize drug abuse, addiction, and sex work. Develop community-based mental health care systems that are trauma-centered.

### **3. Repeal the Adoption and Safe Families Act**

California local and state officials must partner with federal agencies to repeal the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) and create a new vision for child welfare. Until then, make state and county changes in the implementation of Federal Law.

### **4. Address Intersection between Child Protective Services and Medical & Mental Health Professions**

Eliminate drug testing from births and most public hospital admissions. Disconnect medical care from law enforcement, and end mandated reporting.

### **5. Recognize Roots, Prioritize Families First, Reunification and Restoration**

Implement Senate Bill 354 - and build on it - to ensure that families with convictions are not excluded from caring for their children. Guarantee that children stay in their communities and close to their families. Prioritize funding and referrals to community-based alternatives to the system, led by those directly impacted by the system. Provide apologies and reparations to Indigenous nations, immigrant and undocumented communities, and formerly enslaved communities for the theft of their children through child welfare systems.