



PERK
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August 11, 2025

Re: **Strong Opposition to AB 495** – The “Stranger Danger” Bill

Dear Senate Appropriations Committee,

I am writing in strong and urgent opposition to AB 495, **Assembly Member Celeste Rodriguez bill**. This bill so dangerously written that it opens the door for child predators, traffickers, and strangers to legally take custody of children without a parent’s knowledge or consent. If passed, this legislation will endanger every child in California.

While the stated intent of AB 495 is to help children whose parents are detained or deported by ICE, its actual language creates a loophole big enough for traffickers to walk through. Under this bill, any adult — including total strangers — can fill out a “Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit” with no ID, no background check, no verification, and no notarization. Once completed, that person can:

- Remove a child from school.
- Change the child’s school enrollment.
- Take the child to live with them.
- Authorize medical care — including immunizations, dental procedures, and mental health treatment.
- Make these decisions without the parent’s knowledge, consent, or presence.

The bill explicitly states there is no obligation to verify the adult’s identity or relationship to the child. This means anyone can claim “I cannot reach the parent” and legally assume control over a child — even against the parent’s wishes — with no court oversight and no safety checks.

This is not hypothetical. We know predators seek the easiest path to vulnerable children. With hundreds of thousands of migrant children already missing from federal custody, AB 495 will magnify this crisis — putting immigrant and non-immigrant children alike in immediate danger.

Compounded by recent laws eroding parental rights (SB 1419, AB 5, AB 223, AB 665), AB 495 strips away the most fundamental safeguard — a parent’s right to protect their child from strangers. Records will be sealed from the public, making it nearly impossible to track or recover a child once taken.

No child in California will be safe if AB 495 passes. This bill is a predator’s dream and a parent’s worst nightmare. Pastors are already warning families to leave the state if this becomes law. I urge you to vote NO on AB 495. Protect our children. Close the loopholes. Stand with parents and against trafficking, kidnapping, and exploitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Bohn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Bohn
PERK President