Executive Director DEANNA (DEE) ROLEWICZ

President DIANNE M. FETZER Vice President

MICHELE BROWN Treasurer MARY MOLINARO

Secretary COURTNEY SHEPARD

Past President JILL L. BARR Journal Editor

NAGHMEH BASHAR Associate Journal Editor

STEPHEN MONTAGNA Legislative Director AVI LEVY

Associate Legislative Director DORIE A. ROGERS

Technology Director STEPHEN D. HAMILTON

Associate Technology Director DAVID M. LEDERMAN

Education Director SHERRY PETERSON

Membership and Benefits Director KELLY CHANG RICKERT

Outreach Director RICHARD KLIEVER

Regional Director JASON M. SCHWARTZ

Chapter Director (1) MELINDA SAMMIS

Associate Chapter Director (1) **HENRY LEWIS**

Chapter Director (2)

FREDRICK S. (RICK) COHEN

Associate Chapter Director (2) STEPHANIE L. WILLIAMS

Chapter Director (3) **CATHERINE GOODROW**

Associate Chapter Director (3) LISA MCCALL

Coordinating Director (1) CHRISTOPHER MELCHER

Coordinating Director (2) STERLING E. MYERS

Coordinating Director (3) DIANE WASZNICKY

REPLY TO: Avi Levy avi@TLFamLaw.com

(310) 453-6226

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Senator Maria Elena Durazo California State Senate, District 24 State Capitol, Room 5066 Sacramento, CA 95814

> Re: SB 495 (Durazo) as Amended on March 25, 2019

> > Position: Support

Dear Senator Durazo,

On behalf of the California Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, a non-profit organization with 683 members who are certified as family law specialists by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization, I write to support Senate Bill 495, as amended on March 25, 2019.

SB 495 would prohibit the court from considering the sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation of a parent, legal guardian, or relative in determining the best interests of a child for the purpose of granting custody.

ACFLS believes there is no room for discrimination based on sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation in matters relating to custody of a child.

ACFLS

For these reasons, ACFLS supports SB 495, as amended on March 25, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

AVI LEVY, CFLS

Legislative Director, ACFLS