

The Honorable Jim Wood
Assembly Committee on Health
Room 6005, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 2176 – SUPPORT

Dear Assmeblymember Wood,

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors is pleased to offer our support for Assembly Bill 2176 (Wood), which will expand the timeframe to register the birth of a child from 10 to 21 days.

As you know, state law currently requires the registration of a newborn within ten days of birth. Many Native American families follow a cultural tradition of waiting to name their newborn during a traditional sacred ceremony on the tenth day of the child's birth. Current state law conflicts with this tradition and does not allow adequate time for families to comply. Supporting traditional gatherings and practices, including providing sufficient time to gather for the naming of a newborn, is essential to strengthening the solidarity of Native peoples.

Humboldt County includes the territories of nine federally recognized Tribes and Rancherias. The Karuk, Hupa, Tolowa, Wiyot, and Yurok Tribes remain in their traditional homelands to this day. Humboldt County is part of what is known as the "Lost Coast," the most undeveloped and remote portion of the California coast. Many believe this geographic isolation has contributed to the preservation of the cultures of Indigenous people, and we must work together to safeguard these sacred traditions.

Thank you for introducing AB 2176 to increase the number of days from 10 to 21 for families to register the birth of their newborn and thus making our state more respectful of the state's First People.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass
Chair

Cc: Senator Mike McGuire
Shaw/Yoder/Antwith