

Public Law (PL) 109-288 History and Purpose

PL 109-288 amends Part B of Title IV of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the promotion of safe and stable family's programs and other purposes – Federal government appropriated \$40,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2006 to address the needs and improve out comes for kids in foster care and their services (PL 120 Stat.1235 [PL 109-288](#)).

In 2003, the national average tenure of a child welfare case worker was less than two years, and this level of turnover negatively affects safety and permanency for children (PL 120 Stat. 1234 (8) [PL 109-288](#)). Additionally, in 2003, only 20 states were able to produce reports demonstrating that their caseworkers saw their children on a monthly basis. 43 states had written standards for case workers seeing their children monthly, but there was no documentation of the visits. It is unknown if California was a state that reported monthly case worker visits, but the federal government was compelled to act based on the lack of case worker visits and accountability for the funding being spent. The Office of the Inspector General released a series of three reports outlining their findings. You can find them here: [Office of Inspector General](#)

In 2004, Child Protective Services (CPS) staff nationwide reported investigating or assessing an estimated 3 million allegations of child maltreatment and determined that 872,000 children had been abused or neglected by their parents or other caregivers (PL 109 Sec.2. Findings [PL 109-288](#)).

In 2006, the average length of stay for kids in care was 28.3 months (2+ years) ([AFCARS](#) 2006)

76,716 in foster care in California - Break down of placements of kids in Care of 2006

([Children in Foster Care - Kidsdata.org](#))

Court-Specified Homes	371
Foster Home	8,420
Foster Family Agency Home	19,157
Group Home	6,030
Guardian	9,974
Kin-Relatives	26,591
Pre-Adopt	2,204
Run away	1,193
Shelter	254
Trial Home Visit	590
Other	1,932
Total Children in Foster Care	76,716