



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## Use Your Voice

March 1st, 2023

The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Human Services  
State Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6120  
P.O. Box 942849-0060

### **Re: AB 525 (TING)—SUPPORT AS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED**

DEAR CHAIRMAN DR. JACKSON,

On behalf of Youth Leadership Institute, I would like to express strong support for Assembly Bill 525, authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting, which would improve housing affordability for more than 3,300 foster youth in Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs) and maximize federal funding for foster youth housing.

yli partners with thousands of youth across the state, the majority of whom are low-income youth of color. Currently in California, 3,361 foster youth are placed in a SILP and receive a monthly foster care payment of \$1,129 to pay for all aspects of their household: housing, food, transportation, utilities, clothing, and supplies. The foster care rate paid to youth living in a SILP is the same across California, regardless of local housing costs.

There is strong evidence that this rate is insufficient, particularly in parts of the state with high housing costs. According to the CalYOUTH Study, 40% of youth residing in SILPs reported their monthly budget was insufficient to cover rent and other household expenses. This places them at risk for homelessness: Nearly half of youth in foster care in California experienced an episode of homelessness between

age 18 and 21. More than one-third experienced homelessness more than once, averaging weeks to months.

AB 525 would establish a SILP Housing Supplement, which will provide a supplementary payment to youth placed in a SILP based on the local cost of housing. It is modeled after the Housing Supplement for the Transitional Housing Placement for Nonminor Dependents (THP-NMD), which was adopted in 2020 and has been successfully implemented by the California Department of Social Services.

Like the THP-NMD Housing Supplement, the SILP Housing Supplement would augment the Basic Rate paid for SILPs based on Fair Market Rent (FMR), which is the system developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine the allowable rent level for individuals who participate in their Housing Choice Voucher program. The SILP Housing Supplement would be calculated annually and would vary based on the cost of housing in each county according to that county's FMR.

AB 525 would adjust the monthly basic rate paid to youth in SILPs to align with their local cost of housing, allowing them to stabilize their living, school, and work while in extended foster care. Providing the SILP Housing Supplement will help foster youth achieve housing stability while drawing additional federal funding assistance. We urge you to vote aye on AB 525.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PATRICIA BARAHONA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Youth Leadership Institute

CC: Members, Assembly Committee on Human Services