



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## Use Your Voice

March 27th, 2023

The Honorable Dr. Corey A. Jackson  
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 124  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1675 (Alanis) – Supporting Healthy Childhood and Adolescent Development and Helping Foster Youth Heal Through Enrichment and Extracurricular Activities – SUPPORT**

DEAR ASSEMBLYMEMBER JACKSON,

Youth Leadership Institute is pleased to support AB 1675 (Alanis), which ensures children and youth in foster care are able to participate in extracurricular and enrichment activities by requiring the utilization of all available funding and increasing accountability measures under existing laws.

yli partners with thousands of youth across the state, the majority of whom are low-income youth of color. All young people deserve the opportunity to develop their skills, interests, and relationships through participation in extracurricular and enrichment activities. This includes both school-based and community-based activities, such as music, dance, art, sports, volunteer projects, and other activities that broaden a young person's experiences and skills.

For young people in the foster care system, these opportunities are especially crucial because many systems-involved youth have experienced trauma and, as a result of system-involvement, face high risks in terms of poor adolescent and adult outcomes. These

challenges have only been compounded by a national mental health crisis, but research has clearly demonstrated that extracurricular and enrichment activity participation is a powerful intervention that contributes to healthy brain development and supports positive behaviors and relationships. Unfortunately, many foster youth face significant financial and administrative barriers to participation in these activities.

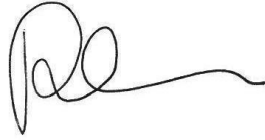
While the law currently provides youth in foster care the right to participate in extracurricular and enrichment activities, a lack of dedicated funding and clear accountability mechanisms prevent many youth from making this right a reality. Participation has costs—from paying initial fees to purchasing equipment and covering transportation costs—but that should not be the reason a young person is denied such a fundamental and important childhood experience. This bill would make good on our promises to young people by ensuring that: (1) the state maximizes and leverages all available funds to support participation in enrichment activities; (2) the voices of youth with experience in foster care and caregivers are considered in designing supports that will enhance participation in enrichment activities; and (3) there is accountability by aligning state law with existing federal law requirements related to case planning and court oversight of participation in enrichment activities.

Young people with experience in foster care have long advocated for extracurricular and enrichment activities, citing the positive impacts on their self-esteem, mental health, and ability to develop healthy relationships. Extracurriculars are not an “extra” support; they are essential tools to help young people in foster care grow and thrive, yet the law does not yet reflect this.

AB 1675 is an important bill that will provide meaningful access to extracurricular and enrichment activities for youth in foster care and

support their health and well-being. Youth Leadership Institute is pleased to support AB 1675 and respectfully requests your AYE vote.

Sincerely,

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

PATRICIA BARAHONA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Youth Leadership Institute

CC: Members and Staff, Assembly Human Services Committee  
Assembly Member Alanis