



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## Use Your Voice

June 16th, 2023

Assemblymember Reggie Jones Sawyer, Jr  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
California State Assembly  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Re: Senate Bill 81 (Skinner and Becker), Fairness and Transparency in Parole - SUPPORT**

DEAR ASSEMBLYMEMBER JONES-SAWYER,

On behalf of Youth Leadership Institute, I am writing in **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill (SB) 81**. SB 81 implements key recommendations made by the independent Legislative Analyst's Office to improve California's parole process.

yli partners with thousands of youth across the state, the majority of whom are low-income youth of color. We witness first hand the brutal impacts of our state's harmful "justice" system on their lives, and are staunch advocates of measures that will reduce the criminalization of our communities.

In January 2023, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) published a report raising concern about the potential for bias in discretionary parole decisions amidst the absence of proper safeguards.

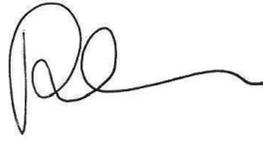
According to the LAO report, "For about 40% of [incarcerated] people... the amount of time they ultimately serve in prison — in many cases including whether or not they will spend the rest of their lives in prison — is determined through the parole hearing process. Accordingly,

decisions made in the parole hearing process have major implications for the lives of a significant portion of the state prison population and their loved ones, as well as victims and the safety of the general public.”

By following the recommendations in the LAO report, “Promoting Equity in the Parole Hearing Process,” California will ensure that parole applicants are receiving fair and unbiased consideration at their parole hearings.

It is for these reasons, Youth Leadership Institute is pleased to **SUPPORT** SB 81 and urge your support.

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