



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

April 27, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

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RE: AB 1114 (E. Garcia) – Workforce Training for the Reentry Population - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Gonzalez Fletcher and Committee Members,

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, I am writing in strong support of AB 1114 (E. Garcia) to strengthen the Supervised Population Workforce Training Grant Program established by AB 2060 (V.M. Perez) in 2014. Investing in workforce development opportunities for reentry populations is a critical step towards expanding their access to well-paying jobs and careers, reducing recidivism rates, improving community safety, and generating overall net state savings. AB 1114 makes adjustments to the Supervised Population Workforce Training Program to expand the eligible target population to include people on parole, require applicants to include a partnership with a community based organization that works with the reentry population, authorize multi-year grant allocations, and strengthen the prioritization of work-based learning activities.

Youth ALIVE! is a violence prevention and intervention organization that helps young people become leaders and advocates for the change they would like to see in their communities through our Teens on Target Program; mentors and supports healing for young people on probation and/or who have been violently injured, through our Caught in the Crossfire program; and works with families grieving in the wake of a homicide through our Khadafy Washington Project.

The passage of AB 109 (Realignment) and Prop 47 has led to dramatic reductions in California's prison and parole population. Even with these reductions, California still has one of the largest parole populations in the United States. More recently, the passage of Prop 57 will result in a short-term increase in the number of people on parole. If California is to realize the intent of these policies, to permanently reduce the incarcerated population and lower costs to the state, we must expand and improve the services, supports and opportunities available to people being released from prison or jails.

This program is both an efficient use of public resources and an effective strategy for reducing recidivism by increasing economic opportunities for people under Supervision. Programs bring local workforce investment boards and established community based organizations together to deliver evidence based services that are specifically designed to meet the training and employment needs of people after incarceration. Preference is given to areas providing matching funds, which leverages the impact of our state's investments and results in more people working and less people incarcerated. The benefits have reverberated throughout some of California's most vulnerable communities. This program means that more parents are home for dinner rather than in jail, that families have more income to support themselves and experience greater economic security. By expanding these projects to parole and better integrating community based organizations, AB 1114 will be able to extend and deepen the impact of this work. We also support AB 1114's emphasis on allowing multi-year grants and prioritizing earn and learn activities. This will enable projects to develop over time and rollout services proven to be effective with supervised populations.

Creating innovative models that provide all people under criminal justice supervision with access to comprehensive workforce services is essential to realizing the promise of California's recent efforts to permanently reduce the number of residents incarcerated or under parole or probation

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supervision. By investing in the people of California and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to contribute and thrive, we can boost our economy and secure a more prosperous future.

We respectfully ask for your support in moving AB 1114 to the floor.

Sincerely,


Anne Marks
Executive Director

CC: Pedro Reyes, Chief Consultant