



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

June 17, 2016

Honorable Loni Hancock (D-09)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 1219 (Support)

Dear Senator Hancock,

Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention organization, supports Senate Bill 1219 (Hancock) which establishes a certification process for employment social enterprises to secure state business development services and procurement preferences.

Currently, employment social enterprises do not meet small business requirements due to their nonprofit status or annual number of employees. Employment social enterprises are small and medium sized businesses that operate as nonprofit or for profit business and are focused on hiring and assisting people who face the greatest barriers to human and environmental well-being. SB 1219 will define employment social enterprise as a for-profit business or nonprofit business that earns a majority of its enterprise revenue from the production of goods and services and that demonstrates evidence in its articles of incorporation, bylaws, or both, of its mission to provide employment with on-the-job and life skills training to a direct labor force that is comprised of a majority of individuals who face significant barriers to employment, including individuals who have been incarcerated, who are or have been homeless, youth and young adults disconnected from school or work, and people with disabilities such as substance addiction or mental illness. SB 1219 will grant an employment social enterprise the preference and status to secure state business and procurement preferences.

A significant contributor to poverty is a set of barriers that keep millions of youth and adults off career pathways. Educational failure, criminal backgrounds, and substance abuse take millions of Americans out of the workforce, while transportation barriers, language and illiteracy, physical and mental disability, lack of affordable child care, and homelessness prevent millions more from achieving economic success. Mathematica Policy Research has shown that for every \$1.00 invested in employment social enterprises, there is a \$1.31 savings to taxpayers and every \$1.00 social enterprises spend has a return on investment of \$2.23 in benefits to society. It is in the State's interest to grow businesses that provide jobs and training for thousands of people facing such barriers.

Youth ALIVE! 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 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. SB 1219 could be a positive impact in our clients' lives.

Youth ALIVE! supports SB 1219 and thanks you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

cc: Julie Sinai, REDF (Co-Sponsor)

Youth ALIVE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID is 94-3143254.

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