



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

February 15, 2017

Senator Holly Mitchell  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 941 – Removing Juvenile Administrative Fees

Dear Senator Mitchell:

Youth ALIVE!, strongly supports SB 941, which aims to remove juvenile administrative fees which run counter to the rehabilitative purpose of the juvenile justice system. There is no state oversight over county ability to pay determination processes, and research conducted through Public Records Act found that the protections intended by the statute are implemented haphazardly, varying widely across counties and failing to protect many low-income families.

Compared to their white counterparts, youth of color are referred to juvenile probation at disproportionate rates, detained more often and for longer periods of time, and sentenced to longer probation terms, which translate directly into fee assessments. As a result, families of color—families that are more likely to be living in poverty—bear a much higher fee burden than white families.

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. We know how oppressive administrative fees can be and how they can prevent a young person and their families from being able to move forward in a positive way with their lives.

While still holding youth accountable to victims through the payment of restitution and other related fines, SB 941 will end the harmful assessment and collection of administrative fees against the families of youth in the juvenile justice system. Youth ALIVE! supports this approach through SB 941.

Respectfully,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director

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