



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

September 1, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1324 — SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, I am writing to urge you to sign Senate Bill 1324. This bill extends the sunset on previous legislation that supports the physical and emotional recovery for Californians injured by gun or other violence. It makes reimbursement available through the California Victims Compensation Fund for community violence peer counselors, sometimes called Violence Intervention Specialists, as service providers.

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 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 that violence – and the trauma it brings – is pervasive. It is not enough to simply acknowledge that people are hurting from the trauma they experience; we must help them to heal. The counseling our staff and the staffs of other programs that provide similar services – like Los Angeles Caught in the Crossfire, San Francisco Wraparound Project, Richmond Restorative Pathways Program, Sacramento Violence Intervention Program and San Jose’s Trauma to Triumph –provides critical support to the victims who need it.

Because the bill that introduced this reimbursement stream was a new approach, it had a sunset in order to examine its impact; however, it wasn’t fully implemented because the infrastructure needed to support it had to be created. That infrastructure, including the training curriculum we have written and billing process with CalVCB, is now established but the law cannot be implemented as intended without an extension.

Please extend the sunset for two years so that we can evaluate its success and cost effectiveness for people in need of the services we provide. Please sign SB 1324 into law.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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