



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!  
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March 15, 2018  
Assemblymember Rob Bonta  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0018

**HONORARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

HON. DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS  
Actor

HON. BARBARA LEE  
United States Representative

**RE: AB 2100 (BONTA): SUPPORT**

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Youth ALIVE!  
Oakland, CA

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, I am writing to express our strong support for AB 2100, which continues and improves support for victims of crime as laid out in SB 1324. This bill supports physical and emotional recovery for Californians injured by gun or other violence, through the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, to include services provided by community violence peer counselors, sometimes called Intervention Specialists or Violence Prevention Professionals. The Victim's Compensation Program is the largest source of victim's benefits in California. The California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) offers benefits to a wide range of victims and AB 2100 strengthens the system.

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.

Victim's Compensation funds are intended to be available for vulnerable individuals, especially people who experience violence. One way to address the shortcomings of CalVCB is to ensure that programs providing culturally appropriate peer counseling to victims of violent crime are able to request reimbursement. AB 2100 would remove the sunset provision established pursuant to SB 1324 (Hancock) to continue reimbursements for peer counseling services to crime victims under CalVCB. Additionally, it would:

- Expand victim compensation benefits to people on parole and probation, because system-impacted victim also need support in their recovery from trauma;
- Extend the period limit of service to ensure victims have ample time to work through issues that may arise as a result of their trauma; and
- Remove the \$15 reimbursement per session limit set in the law and instead tie the Peer Counselor reimbursement rate to the rates set by CalVCB for licensed mental health professionals.

This funding provides vital resources to programs around the state that are providing these much-needed services. AB 2100 encourages a Trauma Informed approach that recognizes victims of violent crime need opportunities to heal in culturally appropriate ways. This legislation ensures communities impacted by violence can continue to receive much-needed counseling from trusted sources.

We are proud to support AB 2100.

Sincerely,

Linnea Ashley  
Training and Advocacy Director