



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!  
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Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2031  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via fax: (916) 445-4688

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Re: Letter of Support for SB 1232 (Bradford)

Dear Senate Public Safety Committee Members,

On behalf of Oakland-based Youth ALIVE!, I write in strong support of SB 1232 (Bradford), amending Section 13953 of the Government Code to extend the time period during which young crime victims may file applications for compensation from the California Victim Compensation Board Restitution Fund. Specifically, this bill extends the time period in which a young person must submit an application from 3 years after their 18th birthday to 3 years after their 21st birthday.

This bill will eliminate a significant barrier preventing young people who have suffered trauma as victims of crime from receiving the medical care and other assistance they need.

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.

Current law (Section 13953 of the Government Code) governs the manner and time period in which a victim of crime may submit an application for compensation to the California Victim Compensation Board. Unless certain exceptions apply, current law requires that the application be submitted by the latest of:

- 3 years after the date of the crime,
- 3 years after the victim attains 18 years of age, or
- 3 years after the victim or derivative victim knew or should have known that an injury had been sustained as a direct result of the crime.

SB 1232 amends Government Code section 13953 to extend the age-based time limitation for filing an application for victim compensation by 3 years: from within 3 years of the person's 18th birthday under current law to within 3 years of the person's 21st birthday under this bill.

Research has shown that, like youth aged 18 and younger, young adults between the ages of 18-24 are particularly vulnerable following victimization. They are also the most at-risk for later becoming involved in criminal activity if their needs are not met.

Trauma creates a negative neurobiological response in a developing brain and has a consequential relationship on a young person's maturation, including educational maturation and achievement. It can reduce the ability to focus, organize, and process information. If unaddressed, traumas suffered in youth

can place youth and young adults on a pathway to becoming involved in criminal activity in their adult years.

These same effects of trauma, of course, make it difficult for young crime victims from marginalized, low-income, minority and immigrant communities to muster the wherewithal to successfully apply for financial assistance from the California Victim Compensation Board Restitution Fund is—a daunting task for any crime victim. By extending the period during which young crime victims who have suffered trauma can apply for compensation from the California Victim Compensation Board, this bill will reduce a significant barrier to young victims receiving the medical care and other assistance they need in order to recover and break the cycle of crime and trauma and its devastating impact upon our youth and their communities.

Respectfully,



Anne Marks  
Executive Director

cc: Andrea R. Perry, Policy Advocate for Californians for Safety and Justice [andrea@safeandjust.org](mailto:andrea@safeandjust.org)