

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee State Capitol, Room 2032 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1190 (Durazo) – Tenant Protections for Victims of Violent Crimes

Dear Senator Jackson,

Youth ALIVE! is pleased to support Senate Bill 1190 (Durazo). This important measure ensures that victims of violent crimes and family/household members can terminate a lease without penalty within 180 days following a crime. Currently, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and abuse of an elder or a dependent adult and their family/household members can terminate a lease without penalty following victimization. SB1190 would expand these relocation protections to victims of other violent crimes (e.g., co-victims of homicide, survivors of gun violence, and survivors of robbery) and their family/household members.

Youth ALIVE! is a nationally recognized community-based organization known for initiating an alliance to treat violence as a public health crisis and developing young leaders in the process. Tasked as Oakland's anchor organization for violence prevention, intervention, and healing, Youth ALIVE! has maintained a successful track record of implementing evidence-based violence intervention and prevention services. Our decades of experience serving victims of violent crime informs our support of Senate Bill 1190.

Youth ALIVE! believes SB 1190 is necessary to California's housing vision of Production, Preservation and Protection. Having a stable, safe home is a fundamental human need. When victims of violent crimes make the difficult decision to break their lease, these victims and their family/household members may experience further financial and housing insecurity. Breaking a lease could mark the tenants' credit score and lead to future landlords discriminating against them. Therefore, protections should be expanded for tenants experiencing situations of great vulnerability, particularly victims of violent crime who experience unimaginable trauma and fear for safety. Being able to find a stable, safe home without being re-victimized is crucial to recovery for victims of violent crimes.

For these reasons, Youth ALIVE! is pleased to support SB 1190 and respectfully requests your Aye vote.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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