



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

April 17, 2014

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
Attn: Tony Bui
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 1756

Dear Assemblymember Skinner,

Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention organization, strongly supports AB 1756. This bill improves economic outcomes for California’s youth and, in so doing, protects public safety by eliminating an unnecessary barrier to reentry for youth who are eligible for and seeking the juvenile record sealing remedy.

Youth ALIVE! works with high school students, families of homicide victims, and violently injured youth, and we believe that opportunity can be transformative. Enabling our clients to leave the mistakes of their youth behind them will open up potential employment opportunities that can keep them from repeating their previous mistakes.

Juvenile records can create barriers to employment and housing for young people. An unsealed juvenile record can appear on a background checks, and lead to an unfairly adverse employment or housing decision. Without stable employment and housing, there is a higher chance that young people will recidivate and become involved in the adult criminal justice system.

Current law allows counties to charge young people up to \$150 for sealing their juvenile record; a prohibitively expensive cost for California’s poor youth. An inability to access the juvenile record remedy can result in an inability to access stable employment and housing.

AB 1756 makes the record sealing process more affordable for one of California’s most vulnerable populations—its youth. This fee, as currently imposed, does not generate substantial revenue, and, even if it did, we should use this opportunity to invest in and support our youth instead of saddling them with additional financial burden. By eliminating the fee for record sealing for youth under the age of twenty-six, AB 1756 will increase public safety and reduce recidivism. The bill will also increase court efficiency by streamlining the sealing process into one court hearing at the time that juvenile court jurisdiction is terminated as opposed to two separate events.

AB 1756 is a small change that will positively impact public safety and economic opportunity for California youth in big ways. For these reasons, Youth ALIVE! strongly supports AB 1756.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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