



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

June 29, 2016

Senator Mark Leno
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: Amend SB 1404 to Included Provision to Extend Sunset on AB 1629 - SUPPORT

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 are also part of National Network of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs which is comprised of violence prevention programs that serve victims of crime with proven violence intervention strategies often housed at Trauma Recovery Centers. This is important work that helps people navigate the healing process and reduces retaliatory violence.

In September 2014, AB 1629 was chaptered. It extended the reimbursement for peer counseling provided for domestic violence to include counselors who work with victims of community violence. It supports physical and emotional recovery for Californians injured by gun or other violence, through the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CalVCP).

Because this was a new extension, the bill 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. The infrastructure, including the training curriculum and billing process with CalVCP, is now established but the law cannot be implemented as intended without an extension. Please extend the sunset for three years so that we can evaluate its success for people in need of the services we provide by carrying it in your bill, SB 1404 so that the important work AB 1629 helps to fund, can continue.

The counseling provided by these programs – like Los Angeles Caught in the Crossfire, San Francisco Wraparound Project, Richmond Restorative Pathways Program, Sacramento Violence Intervention Program, and Oakland's Youth ALIVE! –provides critical support to the victims who need it.

Please extend the sunset on this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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