



September 27, 2018

Governor Signs JBAY Sponsored Bills

State Takes First Step Toward Ending Mounting Homeless Youth Crisis

Today, the Governor Jerry Brown signed two bills sponsored by John Burton Advocates for Youth: Senate Bill 918 (Wiener) and Senate Bill 1083 (Mitchell).

Senate Bill 918: Homeless Youth Act of 2018

Senate Bill 918 adds new responsibilities related to homeless youth to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, the state entity charged with addressing homelessness in California. Of the four new responsibilities set forth in the legislation, key among them is setting specific, measurable goals to prevent and end homelessness among California's youth. Prior to passage of S 918, California was silent on the issue of youth homelessness, with no stated policy to address it.

According to Executive Director Amy Lemley, the state's announcement of an official goal to end youth homelessness is an important first step. "With this critical first step taken, California can start the hard work of ending youth homelessness by dedicating public resources, and ultimately, providing up a better, brighter future for the 1 in 10 youth who experience homelessness annually."

SB 89 is a compliment to investment in in the California State Budget, which set aside a minimum of five percent of the \$500 million Homeless Emergency Aid Program for unaccompanied youth under age 25.

Senate Bill 1083: Extension of Deadline for Foster Families

Senate Bill 1083 (Mitchell) extends the deadline for families who are converting from a foster care placement to a Resource Family by an additional year and clarifies that a parent and child welfare agency may agree to a Voluntary Placement Agreement.

This legislation was in response to extensive delays in the completion of the Resource Family Approval process, with many families waiting upwards of six months to be approved. Without this extension, families were at risk of losing financial support because they had not completed the Resource Family Approval, thereby putting children at risk of changing placements.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Senator Wiener and Senator Mitchell, the California State Legislature and the Administration of Governor Jerry Brown. John Burton Advocates for Youth would like to express gratitude to the individuals and organizations with whom we worked to make these achievements possible. Thank you to the five organizations that co-sponsored SB 918: California Coalition for Youth, Tipping Point, Equality California, Corporation for Supportive Housing and Housing California. Thank you to the Alliance for Children's Rights, Children Now and the Children's Law Center of California, co-sponsors of Senate Bill 1083

Thank you also to the generous foundation supporters of John Burton Advocates for Youth, namely the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Pritzker Family Foundation, the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, the California Wellness Foundation, the Ticket to Dream Foundation, the Angell Foundation and the College Futures Foundation.

About John Burton Advocates for Youth

John Burton Advocates for Youth is a statewide non-profit organization based in San Francisco, working to improve the quality of life for California's foster, former foster, and homeless youth through the development of policy advocacy, collaboration, and capacity building. It was founded in 2005 by John Burton, a former member of Congress, the California State Assembly and President Pro Tem of the California State Senate. For more information, please visit www.jbaforyouth.org or contact Executive Director Amy Lemley at Amy@jbay.org