

September 21, 2018

Governor Appoints JBAY Youth Advocate Alexis Barries to the California Homeless Coordinating Council

Today, the office of Governor Jerry Brown announced that Alexis Barries has been [appointed](#) to the California Homeless Coordinating Council. Alexis is a Youth Advocate at John Burton Advocates for Youth.

The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council was created in 2017 to oversee the implementation of “[Housing First](#)” policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. The Council's mission is to develop policies and identify resources, benefits, and services to prevent and work toward ending homelessness in California.

In the FY 19 state budget, the Council was expanded to include a seat for a formerly homeless youth. Alexis was appointed by Governor Brown to fill this new seat.

Alexis has a distinguished track record of advocating on behalf of youth who have experienced homelessness and been in foster care. As a Youth Advocate at John Burton Advocates for Youth, she provided testimony for [Senate Bill 89](#), which expanded access to reproductive and sexual health services for foster youth and went into effect on July 1, 2017.

In the current legislative session, Alexis was the youth spokesperson for John Burton Advocates for Youth on [Senate Bill 918](#) (Wiener), which was adopted by the California State Legislature and has been referred to Governor Brown. If signed, SB 918 will require the California Homeless Coordinating Council to set a statewide goal to reduce youth homelessness, the first mandate of its kind in the state.

Alexis was formerly in foster care and was part of the first cohort of youth to participate in extended foster care to age 21. She is a full-time student at Sacramento City College. She shared her experience of homelessness as a young adult in an [opinion piece](#) published in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

As a member of the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, Alexis will be on the governing body overseeing the implementation of the recently established \$500 million [Homeless Emergency Aid Program](#) established in the FY 19 California State Budget. Of this total, a minimum of five percent is required to be used to establish or expand programs for homeless youth.

Alexis will also play a role in a [pilot project](#), launched by John Burton Advocates for Youth with [Jovenes, Inc.](#), to use HEAP funding to address the growing issue of homelessness among college students.

About John Burton Advocates for Youth

John Burton Advocates for Youth is a statewide non-profit organization based in San Francisco that works 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 tempore of the California State Senate. For more information, please visit www.jbaforyouth.org or contact Executive Director Amy Lemley at Amy@jbay.org.