SUMMARY
California is in the midst of both a housing and homelessness crisis, reaching record levels in 2019. This crisis extends to youth in care, who live in the Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD). This bill provides a THP-NMD housing supplement to prevent and reduce youth homelessness.

BACKGROUND
When California extended foster care to age 21 in 2010, it created the THP-NMD placement. THP-NMD is operated by state-licensed social service agencies, which lease rental units on the open market, and provide them to foster youth. Agencies also provide a range of services that enable them to live semi-independently make a safe supported transition from care.

County child welfare agencies pay THP-NMD providers a rate, set by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), which is adjusted annually based on the California Necessities Index.

PROBLEM
In California, the cost of housing increased by nearly 65 percent since 2012, while the monthly THP-NMD rate has increased 24 percent. The failure of the THP-NMD rate to keep pace with the cost of housing has had the following negative impacts on foster youth:

Increased homelessness: 340 youth were placed on a waiting list to participate in THP-NMD as of June 30, 2019, a 65 percent increase since 2018.

Exclusion of young parents and youth with disabilities: 30% of THP-NMD providers reported limiting the number of high-need youth they serve to pay housing costs. This includes serving fewer custodial parents and youth with disabilities. Both populations are at disproportionate risk of experiencing homelessness.

Fewer supportive services: 20% of THP-NMD providers reported reducing the level of supportive services to ensure adequate funds are available to cover housing costs. These youth are at a critical point in their lives, when robust services are essential to their long-term success, safety, and stability.

Geographic displacement: High-cost counties place young people away from their communities of origin and their family members, even though proximity to community supports positive outcomes for youth.

THIS BILL
AB 2880 would prevent California’s foster care system from contributing to the growing homelessness crisis by establishing a THP-NMD Housing Supplement. The Housing Supplement would augment the rate paid for by THP-NMD based on Fair Market Rent (FMR), a system developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The THP-NMD Housing Supplement would vary based on the cost of housing in each county. Using 2019-20 FMR, 18 counties would qualify to receive a supplement for non-parents and 47 would qualify to receive a supplement for custodial parents.

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SUPPORT

California Alliance of Child and Family Services (Sponsor)
Children Now (Sponsor)
Children’s Law Center (Sponsor)
First Place for Youth
John Burton Advocates for Youth (Sponsor)
Side by Side
AdvancED Consulting, LLC
Aspiranet
Bay Area Community Resources
Bill Wilson Center
Butte-Glenn Community College District "Inspiring Scholars Foster Youth Program"
Casa de Amparo
Creative Alternatives
CSU Monterey Bay Guardian Scholars Program
David and Margaret Youth and Family Services
Foster Care Counts
Fred Finch Youth and Family Services
Hathaway Sycamore
Haven of Hope
Holly Place
Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program
Krista
Laney College EOPS
Learning for Life Charter School
Moreno Valley College
New Alternatives, Inc
One Day, Inc
Orange Coast College
Public Counsel
Riverside City College
Sacramento State Guardian Scholars
Sanctuary Palm Springs
Santa Rosa Junior College Student Financial Services
Santiago Canyon College Guardian Scholars
Swipe Out Hunger
Ticket to dream
TLC Child and Family Services
Unity Care
Voices
YMCA of San Diego County
Youth and Family Programs
Youth Law Center