



June 25, 2023

CA State Senator _____
Capitol Office, CA State Senate
1021 "O" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 1512: Foster Care Payments

Dear Senator,

I am writing in support of AB 1512: Foster Care Payments (Bryan and Bauer Kahan, Coauthors Hart and Schiavo). This bill will end the archaic practice of counties recouping the costs of a child's time in foster care by using the child's social security benefits for disabilities or for having lost a parent to pay for the child's expenses in foster care. Instead, this bill will require counties to use social security money for the child's current needs and/or to conserve the funds for when the child ages out of the foster care system.

In 2021 the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in Los Angeles County collected about \$5.4 million in revenue through this practice. While this accounts for only 0.18% of DCFS's budget, for youth with disabilities or youth who have lost a parent, this money could be the difference between going to college or going to prison.

Foster children and youth are among our state's most vulnerable populations. Close to 31% of youth aging out of foster care at eighteen experience homelessness; another 25% come into contact with the justice system within two years. Only 50% complete their high school education, and less than 10% attain a college degree. This is also an equity issue. California's foster youth population is disproportionately Black: 19% of children in foster care are black compared to 5.4% in the general population.

Foster youth face significant barriers while in the system and have even more challenges as they transition out of the child welfare system and into adulthood and self-sufficiency. AB 1512 would ensure that eligible foster youth have increased resources for a stable and independent life while in care and after they leave care into adulthood.

I urge you to vote Yes on AB 1512.

Sincerely,
(Print Name) _____

Address _____
