



April 4, 2023

The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil  
Chairwoman, Senate Human Services Committee  
1021 O St., Suite 7240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 456 (Menjivar) Multifamily Housing Program: nonprofit corporations: homeless or at-risk youth – Support**

Dear Chairwoman Alvarado-Gil,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write to you in support of SB 456, which would help combat homelessness and housing instability for California's most vulnerable youth. By expanding opportunities for service providers to apply directly for Homekey 2.0 youth set-aside funds, SB 456 will increase the availability and accessibility of youth housing.

Housing instability and homelessness significantly hinder pursuing higher education, meaningful employment, and self-sufficiency for transition-aged youth. For example, in Chapin Hall's CalYouth study, over 35% of youth reported they experienced homelessness while actively enrolled in extended foster care; overall, 70.5% of California's unaccompanied homeless youth are unsheltered. In addition, homelessness among some youth groups is significantly disproportionate – up to 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+. Among racial and ethnic groups, African American youth were significantly overrepresented, with an 83% increased risk of having experienced homelessness over the youth of other races. Further, some data had shown that 50% of the chronically homeless population had their first experience of homelessness when they were under 25.

By expanding opportunities for service providers to apply directly for the Homekey 2.0 youth set-aside funds, SB 456 reduces the barriers community-based non-profit organizations and local governments face when developing permanent supportive housing or transitional housing for at-risk transition-aged youth, including those experiencing homelessness and those with previous involvement with child welfare or probation, and barriers young people encounter when trying to reenter extended foster care. Further, diverting former foster youth to county child welfare services is critical for timely reentry to foster care. These youth often require immediate assistance with housing, transportation, and food and are at high risk for homelessness and aging out of eligibility for services.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support SB 456.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul Yoder  
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Senate Human Services Committee  
Senator Caroline Menjivar