



# BRIAN MAIENSCHIEIN

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

## Assembly Bill 2802

### Transitional Housing Placement Providers

*As Introduced 2/15/2024*

#### **Summary**

AB 2802 creates gender-inclusive options for housing arrangements within Transitional Housing Placement (THP) Programs, which serve current and former foster youth over the age of 18, to improve access for transgender, gender non-conforming or non-binary, and intersex (TGNCI) individuals, as well as siblings and coparenting youth who are not of the same gender.

#### **Background**

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, between 2019 and 2023, the combined number of gender non-binary and gender-questioning people experiencing homelessness increased by at least 183 percent. These disparities are exacerbated by race and age. Gender-expansive youth of color are twice as likely to experience homelessness compared with their white counterparts.

Transitional housing programs are a vital part of California's strategy to tackle homelessness, providing temporary relief and assistance to at-risk individuals and families. A critical component of these programs is the provision of housing along with robust social services tailored to prepare participants for independent

living and coaching of necessary life skills for current and former foster youth in need of additional support and services. However, there are concerns about current strict, binary gender-based rules for sharing units, which inadvertently lead to exclusion and discrimination. The county vacancy lists, as well as many rosters and contracted slots, designate housing and program vacancies as "male" and "female" for THP programs. In addition, it is common in intake paperwork to only have "male" and "female" options for young people to self-identify their gender.

This issue poses difficulties for TGNCI individuals, as well as siblings, and co-parenting youth who wish to live together but do not share the same gender identity

#### **This Bill**

This bill will allow foster youth in transitional housing to share rooms with a roommate, sibling, or co-parent if approved by the provider. This practice also promotes flexibility in gender identification for room assignments that accommodates the diverse needs of all residents, irrespective of their gender identity or expression. Until official regulations are in

place, the department can use alternative methods to ensure compliance.

**Support**

California Alliance of Child and Family Services (Sponsor)

**Contact Info**

David Correia, Legislative Aide  
Assemblymember Brian Maienschein

[David.Correia@asm.ca.gov](mailto:David.Correia@asm.ca.gov)

916-319-2076