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[DATE]

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2520 (Ramos), As Amended March 21, 2024**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

[Organization name] is pleased to support AB 2520 (Ramos), as amended, which would require Continuums of Care (CoCs) to have youth-specific processes in their Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) such as youth-specific entry points, assessment, and prioritization scores, and youth appropriate housing and services.

Add information about your organization and connection to this issue – such as your community does or does not have a youth-specific coordinated entry system.

Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) are required for all housing programs receiving HUD CoC and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding and strongly recommended for all of a community's homelessness-dedicated resources. California requires applicants of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) to demonstrate connection to CES. In order for these community-wide processes to appropriately serve youth, CoCs need to address the developmental and service needs of unaccompanied homeless youth and ensure that all community stakeholders come together for both the planning and implementation of a youth-specific CES process. An effective, youth-centered process also reduces the number of interviews that require repeating highly personal information, often involving traumatic experiences, and reduces the amount of time it takes to receive housing and supportive services.

AB 2520 is a critical part of the solution to ending youth experiencing homelessness. This bill provides a developmentally-appropriate fix to the gap in services and ensures Continuums of Care include youth-specific entry points, assessment, and prioritization scores, and youth appropriate housing and services as well as ensuring Continuums of Care have housing in their inventory specifically for youth that aligns with the needs of youth in the region. Further, the CoC shall designate or create a youth with lived experience advisory boards for cities, counties

and CoCs to consult with to design and implement interventions for youth. California must ensure that its response to homelessness appropriately takes into account the needs of our most vulnerable youth.

For the reasons noted above, [Organization] supports AB 2520 and requests your support on the measure.

Sincerely,

[Name, Title]

cc: Members and Staff, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Assemblymember Ramos