



September 14, 2021

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 46 (Rivas) – California Youth Empowerment Act – REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on AB 46 (Rivas), which would create the California Youth Empowerment Act and form an advisory commission of youth to engage directly with policymakers. Bringing historically underrepresented youth voices to the table will enhance civic education, encourage civic participation, and call attention to policy issues that are important to California's next generation of leaders. We urge consideration of an amendment adding coverage of transportation costs to allow commissioners to meet in person.

AB 46 prioritizes and centers the voices of youth who have been kept the furthest from opportunity due to policies and practices embedded in our society. These include youth who have been in foster care, experienced incarceration, lived in poverty, had disparate access to healthcare, experienced homelessness, and/or have been excluded from social services. To encourage meaningful civic participation among youth will not only provide the opportunity to shape legislation to address structures inhibiting their ability to thrive, but it will also instill in these young leaders a call to service and civic engagement.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California strongly supports AB 46 and requests your signature. We also strongly recommend that funding be allocated to ensure the establishment of this commission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg
President