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May 12, 2023

The Honorable Phil Ting  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 525 (Ting): Foster youth: supervised independent living placement housing supplement  
As Amended on March 22, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 525. This bill would create a supplemental housing payment for nonminor dependent (NMD) foster youth placed in supervised independent living placements (SILPs) and help reduce housing insecurity among those in extended foster care.

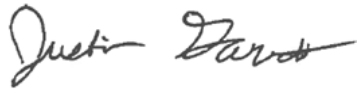
SILPs are a type of housing placement designed for nonminor dependent (NMD) foster youth between the ages of 18 to 21 in extended foster care. SILP is the highest-utilized housing placement option for NMDs, as it allows for the maximum level of autonomy. NMDs who complete an assessment and are determined capable to live independently receive a direct monthly payment, which is intended to cover housing, food, and other living expenses. The monthly payment is set at a statewide rate and does not take regional cost of living factors into the calculation.

AB 525 is an important tool in preventing homelessness for older foster youth. Specifically, AB 525 creates a supplemental payment calculated based on the fair market rent of the county the NMD resides in. Transition-age foster youth and former foster youth are significantly more likely to experience homelessness and housing instability than those who have not entered the foster care system. By reducing the burden of housing costs on foster youth, AB 525 will help provide housing and financial stability during this transitional time when the risk of experiencing homelessness is heightened.

AB 525 is aligned with the goals and policy recommendations found in AT HOME, the county comprehensive plan to address homelessness. Developed through a lengthy all-county effort, the AT HOME plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation & Economic Opportunity) outlines clear responsibilities and accountability aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government within a comprehensive homelessness response system. It includes a full slate of policy recommendations to help build more housing, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and better serve those individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness. AB 525 is consistent with several of the policy recommendations found in the Housing and Mitigation pillars.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports your Assembly Bill 525. Should you or your staff have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 698-5751 or [jgarrett@counties.org](mailto:jgarrett@counties.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Garrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin Garrett  
Senior Legislative Advocate