

How to Submit Position Letter

Create an account with California Advocates: The California Legislature will only accept letters received through an online portal system called California Advocates.

- Create an account here, if you do not already have one.
- Follow the prompts and fill out the necessary information to set up your account.
- Once you've set up your account please follow the steps below to begin the letter submission process.

Create a letter of support: There is a sample letter on the next page for your reference. Please place the content of the sample letter on your own organizational **letterhead**, include a **signature**, and **tailor** as desired to reflect the perspective of your organization and/or why this bill is necessary. Personal stories are important!

Submit a letter of support: Once signed into the portal:

- Select the "Submit a Letter" (top left corner).
- Enter the bill number (AB 963) and session type (Regular). Select "Search."
- Ensure that the proper bill has populated and select "Next."
- On the "Submit Letter as" page, either select or enter your organization.
- Ensure that Assembly Human Services Committee is selected. This will ensure that the appropriate legislative staffer will receive a copy of your letter. Select "Next."
- Upload your letter, select "Support" under "Stance," and enter a subject line.
- You will be prompted to a final "Review Your Submission" page where you can make sure the information you entered is accurate.
- Once you've done so, select "Submit."

You're done!

[Letterhead]

[Date of Submission]

The Honorable Corey Jackson, Chair
Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 963 (Schiavo) The End the Foster Care-to-Homelessness Pipeline Act - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Jackson:

[INSERT ORGANIZATION'S NAME] writes to express our support for Assembly Bill 963 (Schiavo), a bill that will expand the number of affordable housing units available to former foster youth struggling with housing security by providing security to qualified lenders financing the development and acquisition of housing for current and former foster youth ages 18 to 25.

[INSERT SENTENCE OR SHORT PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND/OR YOUR REASONS FOR SUPPORTING AB 963]

In a recent survey of California foster youth, one quarter of former foster youth experienced homelessness in California between the ages of 21-23, with an additional quarter reporting that they had “couch surfed,” or were precariously housed. Stable housing impacts virtually all aspects of life and is a critical social determinant of health.

Both federal and state government have invested in ensuring foster youth and those transitioning out of the child welfare system can access affordable housing. Some of these programs use housing rented or controlled by nonprofits; others provide vouchers that can be used by the foster youth for rental assistance. Regardless of program, an essential need is adequate affordable housing dedicated to these young people.

Despite low default rates across the affordable housing sector, the nature of foster youth rental subsidies, which are portable, has impeded private financing models. However, loan guarantees are a proven model to boost investment confidence while minimizing state liabilities. Both the federal and state departments have existing loan guarantee programs. For example, The California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank's Small Business Loan Guarantee Program has provided guarantees on \$1.7 billion in loans since 2013, while paying only a fraction of that amount to service loan defaults. By leveraging the backing of the state for low-risk loans to affordable housing serving foster youth, California will be able to accelerate housing construction while supporting thousands of foster youth with the goal of forestalling homelessness.

All foster youth and former foster youth deserve access to stable and affordable housing, and AB 963 puts California on the right track to making that a reality. For these reasons, we ask that you support Assembly Bill AB 963 (Schiavo).

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION]

cc: Assembly Committee on Human Services, Members and Staff
Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, Author