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If you have issues submitting the letter, please email the letter to [Allison.RuffSchuurman@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Allison.RuffSchuurman@asm.ca.gov) and cc [i.rosales@kids-alliance.org](mailto:i.rosales@kids-alliance.org)

[DATE]

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes

Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services

State Capitol, Room 2175

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1979 (Friedman) Achieving the Vision of Extended Foster Care - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Reyes:

[Organization name] supports AB 1979 (Friedman) to ensure that the Extended Foster Youth Program (EFC) has sufficient housing-related supports to ensure that all eligible youth who opt to participate can take full advantage of the transition to independence opportunities offered by the program and live in a safe and stable environment.

[Paragraph about organization and interest in the bill.]

The primary purpose of extended foster care is to prepare youth for their successful transition into adulthood. Participation rates in the EFC Program are much higher than were anticipated when the program was established in 2010: While this is a positive sign that our young adults welcome additional assistance from the foster care system as they grow toward independence, it has overwhelmed counties’ capacity to meet the needs of all young adults in care. California’s extremely competitive housing market has led to housing instability and homelessness for our youth in EFC.

To achieve the vision of EFC, it is critical to invest in increased housing availability and supports to ensure that all of the young people who want to participate in the EFC program can take full advantage of the program.

AB 1979 will directly reduce the risk of homelessness by increasing the housing options available by:

* Developing capacity to meet the immediate housing needsof young adults who are re-entering extended foster care or who are moving to a new placement;
* Streamlining the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) approval process;
* Promoting placement stability by requiring counties to “hold” placements for up to 14 days if the youth has provided notice of intent to return within 14 days or the program has reason to believe the youth will be returning to stabilize placements for youth, and
* Requiring counties, in conducting a regular evaluation of their placement resources and programs to consider youth in EFC placed in out-of-home care, including the county’s ability to meet emergency housing needs of those youth.

For these reasons, [Organization] is pleased to support AB 1979 and respectfully requests your AYE vote in committee.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title, Organization]

cc: Members and Staff, Assembly Committee on Human Services

Assemblymember Friedman