

August 12, 2025

The Hon. Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
Sacramento CA

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of 116 child and youth-serving organizations and tribal communities throughout California, we are writing to urge you to reconsider your support for another tax cut for the cannabis industry. According to the bill analysis of AB 564 conducted by Senate staff, your action would result in the loss of \$180 million annually in funding for child care, youth services, and environmental restoration. Over the next five years, this means a loss of about \$900 million in funds for local communities.

As you well know, our communities are experiencing a major loss of funding for programs that support children and families due to the actions of the Trump Administration. In the coming months, families in the neighborhoods we serve will experience higher rates of hunger and untreated illness. They will struggle even more with paying rent and making ends meet. Immigrant families are being hit especially hard.

We deeply appreciate your leadership when it comes to opposing the Trump cutbacks to federal programs. Given your highly visible opposition to these federal actions, we are puzzled by your support for the harmful reductions to child and youth services that will result from a cannabis tax cut. These reductions will only compound the challenges faced by low-income families at this difficult time.

The funding that comes to our local communities from state cannabis tax revenues has been a lifeline for our organizations and has enabled us to serve thousands of children and youth with child care, substance abuse prevention programs, mentoring and mental health, and youth leadership programs. Our ability to serve our communities will be significantly curtailed by a further reduction in taxes for this recreational drug industry.

Children and young people in our communities will face even more dire obstacles as they seek to meet their most basic needs. We urge you to support kids and families at this critical time.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Jim Keddy
Executive Director
Youth Forward



Lynn Silver, MD, MPH
Director
Getting It Right from the Start



Heidi Keiser
Director of Gov Affairs
Child Action, Inc



Patricia Barahona
CEO
Youth Leadership Institute



Abel Salvador Flores
Executive Director
One Community Action



Toni McNeil
Executive Director
Concrete Development Inc



Morning Star Gali
Executive Director
Indigenous Justice



Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke
Senior Director of Advocacy and Education
LGBTQ Center OC



Dr. Rhonda Renfro
CEO
Club Stride Inc



Alexandria Contreras
Director
Passion and Purpose Ministries



Ishmael Pruitt
Co-Founder and CEO
Project Optimism, Inc.



Morgan Rain
Executive Director
CalPride Sierras



John Aguirre
CEO
CalPride



Don Carney
Executive Director
Youth Transforming Justice



Vince Leus
Program Manager
Prevention Institute



Staci Anderson
President & CEO
PRO Youth and Families



Heidi A. Swan
Founder
Hermosa Coalition for Drug-Free Kids



Victor Vasquez
Co-Executive Director
Somos Mayfair



Michelle Leopold
Co-Founder
Marin Residents for Public Health
Cannabis Policies



Brenda Simmons
CEO
Institute for Public Strategies



Terry Supahan
Executive Director
True North Organizing Network



Lee Lo
Executive Director
Asian American Liberation Network



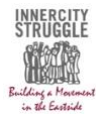
Rich McIntyre
Executive Director
CROP Project



Erin Brown
Executive Director
FosterHope Sacramento



Henry Perez
Executive Director
Inner City Struggle



Ruben Rodriguez
Executive Director
Pueblo y Salud Inc



PUEBLO Y SALUD, INC.
www.pys.org

Adrienne Shilton
Vice President, Public Policy and Strategy
Cal Alliance of Child and Family Services



Gloria Soto
Executive Director
Future Leaders of America



Raquel Ibarra
Policy Associate
California Women's Law Center



Courtney Armstrong
Director of Gov Affairs
First 5 Association of California



Lou Calanche
Executive Director
ExpandLA



Roman Scalon
Executive Director
CalPride Stanislaus



Parke Troutman
Policy Advocate
Mid-City CAN



Dulce Saavedra
Participatory Research Director
Resilience Orange County



Lian Cheun
Executive Director
Khmer Girls in Action



Mandeep Singh
Regional Director
Jakara Movement



Rev Zachary Hoover
Executive Director
LA Voice

Dinora Reyna
Executive Director
San Diego Organizing Project



Lucy Herrera
Executive Director
Legacy LA



Linette Lomeli
Executive Director
Madera Coalition for Community Justice



Jessica Dirks
CEO
Centro del Pueblo Movimiento
Indigena Migrante



Teri Carlyle
Director of Finance
Urban Strategies Council



Cheyenne Lane
Executive Director
Tahoe Youth and Family Services



Derrell Roberts
CEO/Founder
Roberts Family Development
Center



Teresa Flores Onofre
Executive Director
Sacramento Area Congregations Together



Trina Greene
Executive Director
Parenting for Liberation



Raquel Shipp
Executive Director
Sacramento Youth Center

SACRAMENTO
YOUTH CENTER

Elida Ledesma
Executive Director
Arts for Healing and Justice Network



Mary Ignatius
Executive Director
Parent Voices



Carlos A Hernandez
Policy & Programs Coordinator
MILPA Collective



Abdiel Cerrud
CEO
Juma Ventures



Liliana Soriano
Director of Policy
Youth Will

youth will

Colin Ford
Director of Policy
Fresh Lifelines for Youth



Tom Dolan
Executive Director
Inland Congregations
For Change



Isabel Lopez
Executive Director
Raizes Collective



David Kakishiba
Executive Director
East Bay Asian Youth Center



Jarae Clark
Executive Director
City of Dreams



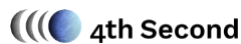
Jeff Farber
Executive Director
Helpline Youth Counseling



Kyle Bill
Executive Director
Kno'Qoti Native Wellness Inc



Richard Fisher
Executive Director
4th Second



Sikander Iqbal
Deputy Director
Urban Peace Movement



Juan Jose Mejia Palacios
Policy Associate
Latino Coalition for a
Healthy California



Lucky Aden
Executive Director
Partnership for the
Advancement of New
Americans.



Francisco Ruiz
Director of Gov Affairs
Improve Your Tomorrow



Michael Duncan
Executive Director
Native Dads Network



Kimberly Aceves-Iniguez
Co-Founder and Exec Director
RYSE Youth Center



Kim Berry Jones
President
The Kinship Fund



Kevin Lor
Youth Coordinator
Merced Lao Family Community Inc



Eduardo Navarro
Chief Operating Officer
Youth Alliance



Greg Garrett
CEO
California Health Collaborative



Louie Nguyen
CEO
SAY San Diego



Leticia Aguilar
CEO
Native Sisters Circle



Gabrielle Tilley
Assoc Director of Policy and Partnerships
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health



Sergio J. Morales
Executive Director
California School-Based Health Alliance



Kristene Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Mental Health California



Brian Poth
Executive Director
The Source LGBT+Center



Antonio Zavala
Director of Programs
Youth Transforming Justice



K.C Strang
Executive Director
San Marcos Prevention Coalition

Kao Ye Thao
Director of Policy & Partnerships
Hmong Innovating Politics



Blanca E Morales
CEO-Founder
Calexico Wellness Center



David Heitstuman
Chief Executive Officer
Sacramento LGBT Community Center



Dominique Nong
Senior Strategist
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition



Lynn Berkley-Baskin
Co-Founder
Justice2Jobs Coalition



Hilda Ortiz
Policy Coordinator
Latino Health Access



Paris Dye
Managing Director
Impact Sac

Israel Salazar Villa
Deputy Director
California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice



California Alliance for Youth & Community Justice

John Vasquez
Policy and Legal Services Manager
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice



Mona Afary
Executive Director
Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants



Angelica Alvarez
Program Director
El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center



Sandie Burgess
Health Educator
Center for Collaborative Planning,
A Center at the Public Health Institute

Jen Harris
Executive Director
Connected to Lead



Xotchitl Cortez
Executive Director
Frontline Catalysts



Christina Gilbert
Director
Funding the Next Generation



Dr Tamme Shinshuri
Executive Director
Oracles of Truth



Andrew Avila
Policy Analyst
Early Edge California



Monike Reynozo
Youth Healing Program Manager
Loud for Tomorrow



Rocio Aguayo
Finance Director
Inland Empire Prism Collective



Katie Reisinger
Division Director of Health and
Safety Programs
Huckleberry Youth Programs



Estella Sanchez
CEO
Sol Collective

Darrell A. Peeden, MPP
CEO
SBX Youth and Family Services



Nakeya Bell
Executive Director
SistaBees



Daniel 'Nane' Alejandrez
Executive Director
Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos



Ivan Hernandez
Director of Movement Building
Gente Organizada



Katie Ear
Executive Director
Building A Generation



Katalina Zambrano
Executive Director
Cal Pride Valle Central



Candida Duperrior
Director of Public Policy
California Child Care Resource
and Referral Network



Jenny Seon
Director
Ahri Center



Benita Ramsey
Executive Director
Divine Truth Unity Fellowship Church
Dbra Rainbow Pride Youth Center



Marty Estrada
Director of Community Development
Community Agency for Resources,
Advocacy and Services



Anthony Robertson
New Home Missionary Baptist Church



Melissa Flores
Director
Mending Fences at JM Ranch



Eric Aaholm
Executive Director
YES Nature to Neighborhoods



Albert Melena
Executive Director
San Fernando Valley Partnership



Darlene Franco
Executive Director
Wukchumni Tribe

Amy Mathieson
Program Manager
Two Feathers Native American Family Services

Jimina Afuola-Sevudredre
Civic Engagement and Advocacy Manager
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)