(On letterhead)

[DATE]

The Honorable Scott Wiener

State Capitol, Room 4066

Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 918 (Wiener) – Homeless Youth Act of 2018**

**Position: Support**

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of [Organization], I am writing in support of SB 918, which will establish $60 million in grants for housing, services and supports for youth experiencing homelessness and create the Office of Homeless Youth within the California Department of Housing and Community Development to oversee them. SB 918 will invest in low-barrier and diverse housing opportunities so each county can have an array of options for youth to escape homelessness.

[Insert paragraph about your organization and why addressing youth experiencing homelessness is important.]

California has the highest number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in the country and the second highest number of youth who are unsheltered. Yet, California lacks a clear strategy to prevent and end homelessness among young people. This bill will require the Office of Homeless Youth to provide a coordinating role, set statewide goals and outcome measures, evaluate the effectiveness of programs in reaching those goals, and develop and administer grants for services to young people experiencing homelessness.

Solving youth homelessness is a critical part of ending California’s larger homelessness crisis because young people who experience homelessness are five times more likely than their peers to become homeless adults. No young person should have to choose between school and the streets or between meaningful work and the street economy. No young person should be sleeping on a city bus or camping on a sidewalk. SB 918 will help California’s young people who are experiencing homelessness to ensure that any episode is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

For these reasons, [Organization] is pleased to support SB 918.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title, Organization]

cc: Assembly Member Blanca Rubio