

1 [Motion to Support SB 234 (California State Legislature 2021-2022): Transition Aged Youth
2 Housing Program]

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4 Supplementary Information:

5 Letter of Support approved as attached (see below).

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Youth Commission
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February 1, 2021

The Hon. Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 234: Transition Aged Youth Housing Program.

Dear Senator Wiener,

The San Francisco Youth Commission supports your bill SB 234: Transition Aged Youth Housing Program. This bill would establish a Transition Aged Youth Housing Program to fund \$100,000,000 worth of grants to local government agencies and nonprofits for the purposes of acquiring, building, or converting permanent supportive housing for youth experiencing homelessness.

The SF Youth Commission is a body of 17 youth from San Francisco between the ages of 12 and 23. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the commission is responsible for advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on policies and laws related to young people. The SF Youth Commission is also charged with providing comment and recommendation on all proposed laws that would primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.

The failure to provide shelter, housing, and supportive services to the thousands of youth who experience homelessness on any given night in California is one of the enduring failures of our state. In San Francisco alone, according to the 2019 Point-in-Time Count, there are approximately 1,145 unaccompanied children and transitional-age youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness on any given night, over three quarters of which are unsheltered.[1] Of youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, 46% identify as LGBTQ+, and are disproportionately Hispanic/Latinx, Black, or multi-racial.

Since the 2000s, the SF Youth Commission has supported San Francisco's 2015 TAY Housing Plan, which set a target of building 400 units of permanent supportive housing for TAY by 2015. However, due to the virtual abandonment of this goal for several years during the recession, San Francisco is over 100 units short of that goal, over five years after the target date. At a time when stable housing is even more key for youth experiencing homelessness to weather the Covid-19 pandemic, the lack of dedicated funding at both the local and state levels for the acquisition and/or construction of permanent supportive housing for TAY is unacceptable. Expanding the supply of permanent supportive housing for TAY will improve local agencies' ability to provide real exits from homelessness to all youth experiencing homelessness.

For all these reasons, we support SB 234, and we thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Nora Hylton, Chair
Adopted on February 1, 2021
2020-2021 San Francisco Youth Commission

[1] 2019 San Francisco Youth Homeless Count & Survey [Report](#)