

1 [Motion to Support AB 800: Workplace Readiness Week]

2 **Supplemental Information:**

3 See attached document.

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Youth Commission
City Hall ~ Room 345
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March 20th, 2023

The Honorable Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
Chair, Assembly Committee on Education
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, CA 94249-0066

Re: Support for AB 800: Workplace Readiness Week

Dear Chairman Muratsuchi:

On behalf of the San Francisco Youth Commission, I am writing in support of AB 800 (Ortega), which would create a "Workplace Readiness Week" in California high schools to educate students on their rights as workers, and their explicit rights as employed minors. The Youth Commission supported AB 800 by resolution on March 6, 2023 (see attached).

The 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 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.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, in July 2022, 55.3 percent of young people (aged 16 to 24) were employed, which is equivalent to 21 million people across the United States. The vast majority of employed youth work part-time, low-wage, entry-level jobs. Young people are often unaware of their rights at work, leaving them subject to various forms of exploitation and abuse at work, including wage theft, unsafe working conditions and workplace injuries, discrimination and sexual harassment. Therefore, it is essential for young Californians entering the workforce to be thoroughly educated on their rights as workers, as well as how to join or organize a union in their workplace so that they do not experience exploitation from their employers.

Modeled on the Voter Rights Education Week that is observed across the state, AB 800 would enact a "Workplace Readiness Week" to educate California high school students on their rights as workers, and employed minors, including information on minimum wage and overtime rates, child labor laws, wage and hour protections, and workers' compensation, when receiving a worker's permit. For these reasons, the San Francisco Youth Commission supports AB 800.

Sincerely,

Emily Nguyen, Chair
Adopted on 3/20/2023
2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission