

1 **[Motion to Support AB 1520 – The State Seal of Civic Engagement Network]**

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3 **Supplemental Information:**

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5 See attached document [Letter of Support].

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Youth Commission
City Hall ~ Room 345
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May 1, 2023

The Honorable Mia Bonta
California Assemblymember, District 18
1021 O Street, Suite 5620
Sacramento, CA 94249-0018

Re: Support for AB 1520 (Bonta) – The State Seal of Civic Engagement Network

Dear Assemblymember Bonta,

On behalf of the San Francisco Youth Commission, I am writing to express our support for your bill, AB 1520 (Bonta). AB 1520 addresses persistent gaps in civic engagement equity and access by creating a network to co-facilitate statewide collaborations between community-based organizations and local education agencies. The network is tasked with advancing high-quality civic learning practices and resources, and expanding access to the State Seal of Civic Engagement to underserved student populations and regions throughout our state.

The Youth Commission is composed of seventeen youths, between the ages of 12 to 23, who represent the diverse communities of San Francisco. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the Youth Commission advises the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission is also charged with providing comments and recommendations on all proposed laws that primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.

The Youth Commission supports AB 1520 because one of the fundamental purposes of public education is to prepare young people for active, engaged participation in civic life. Equipping young people with the resources and skills required to assess community needs, ascertain possible solutions, reflect, and work with governmental and civic structures to effect solutions is the essence of meaningful civic participation. Yet, access to opportunities to engage in constructive community problem solving is not widely nor equitably accessible across the counties and school districts of our state.

This legislation creates a network of local education agencies and community-based organizations and organizing efforts, connecting students to local relationships and opportunities to engage in civic engagement practicums. The network will meet quarterly, providing opportunities for sharing of best practices, offering technical assistance and support to teachers, principals, school personnel, and cultivating and supporting community-based organizations and organizing efforts.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Emily Nguyen, Chair
Adopted on 5/1/2023
2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission