

1 [Support for SB 1078: Support the establishment of the Office of Language Access in
2 the California Health and Human Service Agency (CalHHS)]

3 **Motion supporting Senate Bill 1078: Will provide oversight, accountability, and**
4 **coordination of language access plan across CALHSS departments and urging**
5 **the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and San Francisco’s members of the State**
6 **Legislature to support.**

7 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (SB) 1078, introduced Senator Dave Min (California
8 Senate District 37), will provide oversight, accountability, and coordination of a language
9 access plan across California Health and Human Service Agency (CALHSS)
10 departments; and

11 WHEREAS, SB 1078 would require all departments in CalHHS to create a
12 language access plan and corrective action plan in the case a department has not
13 achieved the goals of the language access plan; and

14 WHEREAS, SB 1078 would help to ensure that all residents of California,
15 regardless of their language proficiency, would be able to receive equitable access to
16 government services; and

17 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Youth Commission values equitable access to all
18 government services and believes that language should never be a barrier; and

19 WHEREAS, Language barriers can easily result in unequal access to essential
20 services as non-English speakers would need to face additional hurdles; and

21 THEREFORE BE MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission supports
22 Senate Bill 1078: Support creation of Office of Language Access in CAHSS; and be it

1 MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the San Francisco
2 Board of Supervisors and Mayor London Breed to support Senate Bill 1078.

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1 **[Support for SB 1078: Support the establishment of the Office of Language**
2 **Access in the California Health and Human Service Agency (CalHHS)]**

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4 **Supplemental Information:**

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6 See attached document: [Letter of Support]

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Youth Commission
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June 6th, 2024

Senator Dave Min
1021 O Street, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support the establishment of the Office of Language Access in the California Health and Human Service Agency (CalHHS)

Dear Senator Dave Min,

On behalf of the San Francisco Youth Commission, we are writing to express our support for your bill, SB 1078 (Min). SB 1078 would require all departments in CalHHS to create a language access plan and corrective action plan in the case a department has not achieved the goals of the language access plan.

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 comments and recommendations on all proposed laws that would primarily affect youth before the Board of Supervisors takes final action.



The Youth Commission has been prioritizing the implementation and funding of Language Access programs all throughout San Francisco, as shown in our 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Budget and Policy Priorities. Commissioners have been engaging with OCEIA to learn about their efforts to spread language access. The Youth Commission values equitable access to all government services and believes that language should never be a barrier. In our 2023-2024 Budget and Policy Priorities, we also acknowledge the importance of being able to provide comprehensive translations and interpretation training for staff. With many different types of people living in San Francisco, it is vital that when someone does not speak English, they are properly supported. Language barriers can easily result in unequal access to essential services as non-English speakers would need to face additional hurdles. SB 1078 would help to ensure that all residents of California, regardless of their language proficiency, would be able to receive equitable access to government services. SB 1078's requirement for a corrective action plan would also hold departments across California accountable for not meeting language access goals. This mechanism would ensure that government agencies address any shortcomings within their language access programs and serve all residents fairly.

The Youth Commission further encourages the implementation of the Office of Language Access in the California Health and Human Service Agency.

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Sincerely,

Ewan Barker Plummer

2023-2024 Chair, San Francisco Youth Commission
