



May 1, 2019

The Honorable Kansen Chu
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1235: Homeless Youth Prevention Centers – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Chu:

On behalf of the California Travel Association, also known as CalTravel, I am writing to support AB 1235, which would rename facilities as “Homeless Youth Prevention Centers” and would expand the categories of youth for which the center is required to provide services to also include youth at risk of homelessness and youth exhibiting status offender behavior, as those terms are defined by the bill. The bill would expand the definition of “short-term” to mean no more than 90 consecutive days.

CalTravel is the umbrella trade association representing the travel, tourism, and hospitality industry. Visitors to California spent \$132 billion in 2017, spending that supported over one million jobs. California travelers generated \$10.3 billion in state and local taxes in 2017 to support vital public services including police, fire protection, health and homeless services, park maintenance, education and road repair. Our membership is made up of cities, destinations, resorts, amusement parks, sports venues, transportation companies, industry associations, ad agencies, media companies, and other organizations for whom travel and tourism is important.

Our members take extraordinary pride in promoting the California experience to visitors from around the world. They have also seen the effect of homelessness within their own communities that impacts those experiencing homelessness, visitors, residents, and workers. It is one of the top challenges facing the travel and tourism industry in California today. We recognize the value of making additional efforts to reach out particularly to youths who are homeless and at risk of homelessness to provide services to them sooner to attempt to divert them from long-term homelessness.

For these reasons we support for AB 1235.

Sincerely,

Barbara Newton
President & CEO
California Travel Association