



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
21.		Favor	DeLlora Ellis-Gant	The Los Angeles County African American Employees Association is in full support of this motion and will promote the action of the board on our social media platforms. We also will inform all members of the eligibility criteria and encourage them to promote this information within their networks.
			Dexter OConnell	Safe Place for Youth is in support of this item, which will help many care-involved individuals avoid needing to access our services in the first place, and will help lift others out of homelessness. Thank you.
			Jonathan Pacheco Bell	
			Luis L Vargas	
			Nicholas Lampros	
		Oppose	paul burt	Vehemently OPPOSE! Outside of California nowhere else in the Nation are radically unfair and unsustainable demands being made of taxpayers to fund the housing, healthcare, and this, the most flagrant, "Guaranteed Basic Income" for people not related to them! This represents an unprecedented outrage! Taxpayers should NOT BE on the hook for such blatant FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE of taxpayer funds. Mitchell should be compelled to step down from the Board!!
		Item Total		6
Grand Total			6	

August 5, 2024



Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
500 W. Temple St., Room 381B
Los Angeles, CA 90012

***Re: Public Comment in Support of Expanding Breathe: Los Angeles County's
Guaranteed Income Program to Foster Youth
For the Board's August 6, 2024 Meeting, Agenda Item No. 21***

Distinguished Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written public comment on the Motion to Expand Breathe, Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program to Foster Youth.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services is a non-profit legal aid organization that provides free legal services to low-income residents of Los Angeles. In this capacity, Bet Tzedek is keenly aware of the higher risks and vulnerabilities faced by foster youth, and actively engaged in combatting some of these problems. For example, Bet Tzedek's Preventing and Ending Homelessness Project provides advocacy and support to individuals at risk of becoming unhoused, our Transgender Rights Project assists transgender individuals in obtaining equal access to benefits and education, and our Eviction Defense Project serves and represents tenants in unlawful detainer proceedings throughout Los Angeles. Bet Tzedek thanks Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell for putting forward this Motion, which we strongly support.

It is no secret that lack of housing is a critical problem in Los Angeles. Eviction filings have now risen to an even higher level than before the COVID-19 pandemic, and rents continue to rise. While housing insecurity is by no means limited to foster youth, young adults in the foster care system face a particularly high risk of becoming unhoused as they transition out of receiving care. National estimates suggest approximately 20% of young adults in the foster care system are likely to experience homelessness within a year of emancipation, while here in California, one study found that close to one out of every four youths in the foster care system experienced homelessness at some point between the ages of 17 and 21. Unfortunately, these risks are significantly increased for people of color, who are already disproportionately likely to be placed in the foster care system. For many Angelenos, finding and keeping stable, affordable housing is already difficult; for foster youth, doing so without familial support or financial resources is much, much harder.

Similarly, while California and Los Angeles County have taken major strides toward providing better support and medical care to transgender foster youth, transgender youth in the foster care system continue to face major challenges. Transgender youth are at increased risk of homelessness and family estrangement, and as a result are significantly overrepresented in California's foster care system. In our practice, we see every day how difficult it can be for transgender individuals to maintain adequate medical insurance and benefits, which can prevent them from accessing critical gender-affirming healthcare. Even where transgender individuals have access to appropriate healthcare while part of the foster care system, they risk losing that care as they transition out, whether through loss of benefits, loss of insurance, loss of stable housing, or simply because they cannot afford it. For a young adult just beginning to make their way in this world, this can be a devastating blow.

Expanding the Breathe program is a simple, common-sense solution to combat these and the many other risks faced by foster youth. The growing body of experience with guaranteed income nationwide—including the initial rollout and expansion of Breathe to date—demonstrates the efficacy and impact that guaranteed income can have in addressing these issues, including keeping people housed and minimizing justice system involvement. But there is still much more to be done, and the proposed expansion to the Breathe program is a logical next step. That is why we urge the Board to support Supervisor Mitchell's proposed motion.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Lampros

Nicholas M. Lampros

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