

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE JJCC- COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2020 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM MEETING

RECEIVED FROM: VIVIAN WONG RECEIVED FOR CAC MEETING

Dear Members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (“JJCC”):

The Youth Justice Education Clinic (“YJEC”) at Loyola Law School is submitting public comment regarding agenda item IV(b)(iii) (“FY 2021-2022 JJCPA Funding”). YJEC represents young people in the juvenile legal and foster care systems in education advocacy. Many of our clients have disabilities that are identified far too late and unaddressed by the schools responsible for them. As a result, they are often surveilled and punished by school-based probation officers and law enforcement for disability-related behavior. In contrast, many of our clients benefit from community-based providers who offer unconditional mentorship, afterschool programming, and educational support. Our clients need counselors, teachers, and community-based providers who are better equipped to understand and support youth development and address disability-related behavior.

Investing in school-based probation will continue to fuel an unjust system where we criminalize young people for disability-related and typical adolescent behavior – which is completely antithetical to supporting youth development. We urge JJCC to divest from school-based probation and invest in community-based organizations who can and already do make a positive difference in young people’s lives.

Thank you,

**Vivian Wong, Esq.**