

Submitter: Marcus Thompson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB1521
Date: February 9, 2024
RE: SB 1521

To whom it may concern,

I'm submitting this response as a director of a small organization that provides mentoring services primarily to youth involved in child welfare and foster care. I'm opposing this bill for several reasons. To begin with, I do not have an issue or concern with oversight as our youth deserve to be provided a dynamic service and having regulations around that are understandable. As a small agency, this bill would add a level of expectations that would create a difficulty in providing our service and showing up for the kids in a way they have become accustomed to. Our current situation provides much support and oversight by our contract provider. This has allowed us to operate with integrity and trust as we know the expectations of our contract but more importantly the service we provide for our youth. Much of our time is focused on providing that dynamic service and my worry would be that this bill would remove the creativity and individualization we are afforded and that has benefited our program and the impact made with our youth. I understand I am just one voice, but I do speak for the countless youth we have worked with in the past and those we currently do. They trust that we are able to show up for them in an authentic way and I worry that too much structure will negatively impact their experience. Thank you!

Marcus Thompson