

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the current list of rights for minors and non-minors in foster care includes 27 enumerated rights, including the right to live in a safe, healthy and comfortable home with respect; be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment; receive adequate and healthy food and clothing; and receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services; and

WHEREAS, although most of these rights are consistent with those provided by the Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsperson, it has been reported that there is no uniform dissemination of this information, nor is there a clear process of accountability when youth are not provided with this information; and

WHEREAS, if foster care minors and non-minors are unaware of or do not understand their rights, they are less likely to receive the protection, resources, and support of the State; and

WHEREAS, this has allowed the prescription of psychotropic drugs to nearly 25 percent of adolescents in California's foster care system at a rate five times higher than non-foster children, subjecting them to the serious harm that these drugs can have in the form of diabetes, violent and suicidal behavior, and even brain shrinkage; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the State Assembly is a bill, AB 1067, as amended (Gipson), which would require the State Department of Social Services to convene a working group to make recommendations to the Legislature for revising the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, standardizing information about the specified rights and methods for its dissemination, and developing measurements and improvements to the degree to which foster youth are adequately informed of their rights; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 63,000 children and youth in the State's Child Welfare Services system; and

WHEREAS, the City has demonstrated its commitment to foster care youth in its Comprehensive Homelessness Strategy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1067, as amended (Gipson), which would require the State Department of Social Services (DSS) to convene a working group to make recommendations to the Legislature for revising the Foster Youth Bill of Rights and to develop standardized information about the specified rights for dissemination and educational purposes.

PRESENTED BY:



MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON  
Councilmember, 8<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



MAY 13 2016