

RESOLUTION

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, child abuse in organizations that provide programs to youth has been a widespread, national problem for decades; and

WHEREAS, more than 90,000 childhood sexual abuse claims were filed against Boy Scouts of America, for incidents spanning several decades; and

WHEREAS, the organization knew about many of these incidents, but failed to act because volunteers were not mandated to do so by law; and

WHEREAS, many youth-serving organizations do not have the appropriate mechanisms in place to assure that youth are protected from abuse, such as reporting procedures or background checks for volunteers; and

WHEREAS, AB 506 (Gonzalez), introduced on February 9, 2021, would implement standards to address the issue of widespread child abuse in youth-serving organizations, such as the Boy Scouts of America, by requiring youth service organizations to take a number of steps, such as developing child abuse prevention policies and procedures, to become eligible for liability insurance; and

WHEREAS, parents should be able to leave their children with youth-serving organizations without the fear that their children may be subjected to abuse while in the care of such an organization;

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 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 506 (Gonzalez), which would require youth-serving nonprofits to establish policies that protect children from abuse, including background checks and training, in order to receive insurance coverage; and mandate long-term volunteers who supervise children to report abuse.

PRESENTED BY: Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: Paul Kheorian

APR 07 2021
tejn