Insert your organization’s logo here

**Please submit via email to** **leg.unit@gov.ca.gov** **and CC** **pclark@youthlaw.org**

Insert today’s date here

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor of California

1021 O Street, Ninth Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Request for Signature- AB 2137 (Quirk-Silva)**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of [Your organization’s name], thank you very much for the numerous reforms you have enacted to improve education for California’s foster youth. Thanks to this leadership, there has been a 42% increase in foster youth enrollment in California’s community colleges. I am writing today to respectfully request your signature on AB 2137, authored by Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva, to continue this progress and ensure youth in foster care have access to critical educational support and services.

[Optional paragraph introducing your organization]

As you are well aware, California’s students in foster care encounter significant challenges graduating from high school and enrolling in higher education, including school mobility, chronic absenteeism and higher rates of exclusionary discipline practices than their peers. In 2021-22 academic year only 61.4% of foster youth successfully completed high school within four years compared to 87% of the general student population and 84.5% of socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

AB 2137 seeks to improve the educational experiences of students in foster care and ultimately improve high school graduation and postsecondary education matriculation rates. AB 2137 accomplishes this by more efficiently utilizing an existing, well-established program: the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCPs), located in each County Office of Education by authorizing these programs to provide direct student support. Currently, school districts must certify in writing that they cannot provide these services before allowing FYSCPs to move forward. AB 2317 would remove this restriction and allow programs to provide the intensive support they are uniquely qualified and positioned to provide.

AB 2137 does not require FYSCPs to provide direct services, but rather allows FYSCPs to provide direct services if needed when funding is available. It does not require any additional funding, and better utilizes existing funding.

Thank you again for your commitment to California’s foster youth. AB 2137 is aligned with this commitment and is an important step towards California’s goal of educational equity. For these reasons, [your organization’s name] respectfully requests your signature.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name and signature]