

3 Easy Steps

Send a Letter Opposing AB 1641

AB 1641 will be heard in committee soon, and it needs to be stopped or it will repeal part of Youth Offender Parole.

- 1.** Print the letter. If you want, change it! Add in your own thoughts. Or send as is!
- 2.** Sign your name at the end, and print your name, address, and email.
- 3.** Send by fax, mail, or email!

Two choices:

- Human Rights Watch will send the letter for you: Send us your letter, and we'll get it to the committee chairperson, and also send copies to all members of the committee. You can send it to Human Rights Watch via fax (310-477-4622) or by email (send to estrادل@hrw.org with the subject line: "AB 1641 Opposition letters.")

Or

- Send it yourself by US Mail, or fax or email it directly to Assembly Members. The US Mail address and fax of the chairperson are on the letter. You can use this online portal to send by email:
<https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
California State Assembly Member
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916.319.3745

RE: Opposition to AB 1641 (Kiley)

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer:

I oppose Assembly Bill 1641, which seeks to repeal part of California's proven Youth Offender Parole law. Youth Offender Parole holds young people responsible for criminal behavior but gives them a chance to turn their lives around. If passed, AB 1641 would exclude from Youth Offender Parole young people age 18 through 25 for murder convictions. Ignoring widely accepted research, AB 1641 is out of step with science and California's solid commitment to rehabilitation.

Punishment should be proportionate to culpability, and it must reflect the capacity of people to grow and mature. When California condemns a young person to a life behind bars, it disregards the human capacity for growth, and the very real physical and psychological differences between youth and adults.

California's existing law requires a young person who was 25 or younger at the time of crime and sentenced to a long prison term serve a minimum of 15, 20, or 25 years in prison, depending on the seriousness of the crime. This is a substantial amount of time for anyone, but especially a young person. Parole, however, is not guaranteed. Youth Offender Parole process requires a person to prove that they have rehabilitated. The Youth Offender Parole process gives young people hope and the motivation to focus on personal growth. Assembly Bill 1641 would take hope away from many young people in prison.

Assembly Bill 1641 represents perspectives based not on science, but fear. California has long left behind the idea that a young person cannot change direction in life. It is no longer acceptable to throw away the life of a young person who has committed a serious crime. Instead, our state provides opportunities for people to show they have grown and matured and are not a danger, and society is better for it.

I oppose Assembly Bill 1641 because Assembly Bill 1641 because we believe that every young person deserves a second chance. I respectfully urge your no vote.

Sincerely,

CC: Assembly Public Safety Committee Members
Senator Holly Mitchell
Human Rights Watch (Fax: 310-477-4622)