

## AB2247 (Gipson): Creating a Youth-Centered Process for Stability within the Child Welfare System

### BACKGROUND

This topic matters because all 60,297 foster children and youth in California deserve stable, loving, and safe homes.

This bill creates the first formal process in California code and regulations for how these moves can and cannot occur.

On September 22, 2018, Governor Brown signed AB2247 into law.

### THIS LAW

Declares the intent of the legislature that no foster youth should move if it "negatively impact their well-being or sense of security."

Mandates that a social worker or placing agency develop and implement a "placement preservation strategy" that should include strategies such as conflict resolution, child & family team meetings, and facilitated meetings.

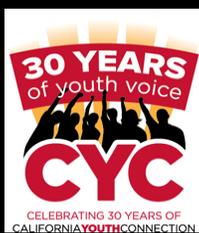
If a youth still needs to move, written notice must be provided a minimum of 14 days prior, to their parent or guardian, current caregiver, attorney, and the youth themselves if they are at least 10 years old.

Moves cannot happen between the hours of 9pm and 7am unless the youth (if they are at least 10 years old), the current and prospective caregiver, and the social worker unanimously agree that this is necessary.

If a complaint is made to the Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsperson that moves happened outside of this law, the Office will share the findings of their investigation with the relevant county child welfare directors office.

The reunification rate for youth who don't move is 37% compared to just 5% for youth who move 3+ times in care.

More than 90% of foster youth who move 5+ times will become involved in the juvenile justice system.



Youth with multiple placements have 36% to 63% risk of behavioral challenges than the youth in stable placements.

Youth of Color are 25% more likely to move than their white peers. African American and Native American youth move at the highest rates.