



1970 Broadway, Suite 760  
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August 25, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol, 1st Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Request Signature on SB 1290 (Durazo, Mitchell) to Ensure Debt-Free Justice for All CA Youth**

Dear Governor Newsom:

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) requests your signature on Senate Bill 1290 (Durazo, Mitchell) to end the harmful collection of administrative fees from families with youth in the juvenile legal system and from young people age 21 and under in the criminal (adult) legal system. SB 1290 will further the aim of Senate Bill 190 (2017), a bipartisan bill that prohibited counties from charging youth and their families new administrative fees starting January 1, 2018. SB 190 did not, however, stop counties from collecting fees assessed prior to 2018.

The passage of SB 190 demonstrates growing recognition that juvenile and criminal legal system fees are regressive and racially discriminatory. As a 2017 [study](#) by the Policy Advocacy Clinic at U.C. Berkeley found charging juvenile administrative fees undermines rehabilitation and public safety, disproportionately impacts low-income families of color, and produces little to no net revenue. Prior to SB 190, 57 counties charged families juvenile administrative fees and most counties charged young people in adult court.

Today, 43 counties have voluntarily ended or suspended the collection of nearly \$350 million in previously assessed juvenile fees, but 15 counties are pursuing nearly \$15 million in outstanding juvenile fees from the families of system-involved youth and an unknown amount of fees assessed to youth age 21 and under in the adult system.

Without the statewide protection afforded by SB 1290, ongoing juvenile fee collection will continue to be an injustice that disproportionately impacts low-income families of color.



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California must continue its role as a leader in the movement for youth justice across the county. With the passage of SB 1290, California will set the national standard for fee abolition that advances both rehabilitation and public safety. CFPA supports SB 1290 in its current form. We respectfully request that you sign SB 1290 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Call".

Jared Call, California Food Policy Advocates

CC: Office of Senator Maria Elena Durazo (Author)  
Jess Bartholow, Western Center on Law & Poverty (Co-Sponsor)  
Anthony Robles, Youth Justice Coalition (Co-Sponsor)  
Policy Advocacy Clinic, U.C. Berkeley School of Law