

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review  
1020 N Street, Room 357  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 46 (Luz Rivas) California Youth Empowerment Act - SUPPORT

**Dear Chair Petrie-Norris,**

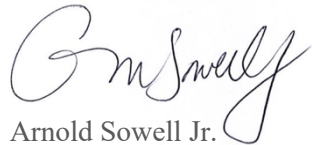
NextGen California respectfully requests your support of AB 46 (Luz Rivas), which would establish a Youth Empowerment Commission to advise policymakers on issues impacting young Californians. The Commission would consist of 25 members between the ages of 14 and 25 and would be charged with making recommendations that would improve the quality of life for California's disadvantaged and disconnected youth, among other things.

California's youth faced economic and financial insecurity long before the COVID-19 pandemic, due to mounting student loan debt, unaffordable housing options, and the growing gig economy. For example, California youth between the ages of 18-24 years old have experienced the highest unemployment rate of any demographic group during the pandemic. This generation faces myriad challenges in the present moment that must be urgently addressed by policymakers, and they also will live long enough to experience the social, economic and environmental consequences of the climate, healthcare, and other policies that the state enacts today.

Although young Californians are disproportionately impacted by various state policies, programs, and regulations, they lack a direct voice in the state government decision-making processes. The Youth Empowerment Commission would help ensure that the Legislature, the Governor and the state agency apparatus address the unique concerns of youth and benefit from their insights and input.

NextGen California believes that the best democracy is one in which every voice is heard and every community is represented. For these reasons, we strongly support AB 46 and respectfully request your “aye” vote.

Sincerely,



Arnold Sowell Jr.

Executive Director, NextGen California