



## CALIFORNIA ASSET BUILDING COALITION

October 18, 2017

### **PRESS RELEASE: Gov. Brown Signed SB 190: An End to Juvenile Administrative Fees**

Dear Asset Building Community,

We are excited and proud to announce that on October 11, 2017, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 190 into law, which will end the assessment of juvenile administrative fees. We acknowledge and thank the lead authors, Senator Mitchell and Senator Ricardo Lara, for their leadership in paving the way for a more equitable juvenile justice system. California is the first state in the nation to eliminate these fees.

As you may know, California law permits counties to charge families with youth in the juvenile justice system for the costs of detention and probation-related expenses. However, juvenile administrative fees have very little positive impact on county budgets and pose serious problems for families' financial security. These fees also increase the likelihood of recidivism and undermine, rather than promote, family reunification. Effective January 1, 2018, SB 190 will end the assessment of these unfair and counterproductive administrative fees.

The juvenile justice system disproportionately impacts low income families and families of color. Low-income families are unable to afford to pay the fees and often accumulate significant debt as a result. Further, youth of color are discriminated against throughout the juvenile justice process and are referred to juvenile probation at disproportionate rates, detained more often and for longer periods of time, and sentenced to longer probation terms. A [2017 study](#) by the U.C. Berkeley Law School Policy Advocacy Clinic found that black youth in Alameda County were charged, on average, twice as much as white youth. Because youth of color are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system, this translates directly into higher fee assessments for families of color.

SB 190 is a step in the right direction of creating a more just juvenile justice system that does not overburden families with unnecessary financial costs. We firmly believe that ending counterproductive, discriminatory wealth-stripping policies, such as the assessment of juvenile administrative fees on parents, is critical to keeping Californian families more financially secure.

SB 190 means an end to administrative juvenile fees and an end to destabilizing finances for families whose child enters the juvenile justice system.

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The California Asset Building Coalition (CABC) is a statewide network of diverse organizations joined together to advance statewide policies and programs that help Californians to save, build assets, and achieve economic mobility. We envision a California with a strong middle-class where hardworking Californians have access to the financial tools and incentives they need to achieve their dreams.