

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUTH POLICY COALITION

March 29, 2024

The Honorable Chair Caballero Senate Appropriations Committee 1021 O Street, Suite 2200 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 927 (Dahle) State of Emergency Settlement Tax Relief – SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Caballero,

The Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (NCYPC) writes to express our support for Senate Bill 927 by Senator Dahle.

The Northern California Youth Policy Coalition represents youth from over thirty counties across Northern California from the North Coast to the North State to Sacramento. We seek to give a voice to rural youth who feel unheard and a platform to come together to advocate for issues that are most important to our rural youth in Northern California. Our main objective is to ensure that the youth voices of this region are heard on local, regional and state levels, where decisions make a direct impact on our rural communities.

SB 927 directly benefits individuals impacted by disasters by alleviating financial burdens during difficult times. By excluding settlement payments from taxable income for victims of declared states of emergency, the bill ensures that these payments are tax-free. This provision is crucial as it allows disaster victims to retain more of their settlement funds to aid in recovery and rebuilding efforts. SB 927's focus on excluding settlement payments from taxable income acknowledges the financial strain disaster victims face. By alleviating the tax burden on these settlements, the bill ensures that more resources remain available for rebuilding and recovery efforts, directly benefiting communities.

As a rural youth organization, we support SB 927 because in rural regions, access to resources and support services can be limited, making the financial burden of disaster recovery especially daunting. By making these settlement payments tax-free, the bill ensures that rural families can retain more of their compensation to cover essential needs like rebuilding homes, replacing lost belongings, or covering medical expenses. This financial assistance is essential for fostering resilience and recovery in rural communities, enabling families to recover and rebuild after a disaster strikes.

For these reasons, the Northern California Youth Policy Coalition urges your support for SB 927. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bode Gower Chair, Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (NCYPC)

ORGANIZED VOICES FOR RURAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUTH