FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Foster Care Advocacy Group Heads to Sacramento, Organizes Rally, for Day at the Capitol 2026

California Youth Connection to advocate for key legislation that support California foster youth

Sacramento, CA - Foster youth leaders from across California are convening in Sacramento for California Youth Connection (CYC)'s Day at the Capitol (DAC) conference from March 6-9, 2026. Current and former foster youth organize, learn about California's legislative process, and meet face-to-face with legislators from their home districts to advocate for critical bills centered on foster youth voice and lived experience.

CYC's two priority bills focus on expanding housing access and stability to foster youth (AB 2764), and ending endless probation for dual status youth (AB 1886). While each bill addresses a unique barrier, they share a common purpose: placing foster youth at the center of the decisions that impact their lives.

"Policies impacting foster youth are often written by adults who have not experienced the system firsthand," says Carolyn Reyes, Executive Director of CYC. "Day at the Capitol brings youth directly into meetings with lawmakers to share personal stories, identify gaps, and propose solutions rooted in lived experience."

Rally at the Capitol

On Monday, March 9, from 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. at the West Steps of the California State Capitol will be a youth-led rally. Approximately 150 foster youth, members of the California legislature, supporters, and representatives from community-based organizations are expected to attend. A featured speaker is Assemblymember Sade Elhawary (D-57), author of CYC's priority bill AB 1886 to end endless probation for dual status youth. Additionally, current and former foster youth will take the stage to share personal stories and call on lawmakers to support CYC's priority bills. After the rally youth will meet with legislators from their districts, garnering support for the advancement of CYC's co-sponsored bills.

Foster Youth Voice at the Center

To prepare for meeting with legislators, CYC members (current and former foster youth aged 14-24) will engage in workshops, led by fellow members, to learn about California's legislative process, and build leadership and advocacy skills. Youth will meet with their district legislators to share personal experiences, policy impacts, and propose solutions rooted in lived-experience.

About California Youth Connection
California Youth Connection (CYC) is a youth-led nonprofit organization that develops and grows leaders who empower each other and their communities to transform the foster care system through legislative and policy change. Day at the Capitol exemplifies CYC's commitment to ensuring foster youth are not only present in policy conversations, but leading them.

Members of the media are invited to attend the rally on March 9 from 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. at the West Steps of the Capitol and witness youth leadership in action.

For more information, interview requests, or event details please contact Melissa Cortez, CYC Communications Manager at melissa@calyouthconn.org.