AB 1886 - Ending Endless Probation for All Youth
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A youth-centered bill co-sponsored by California Youth Connection (CYC), Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice, Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice, Fresh Lifelines for Youth, National Center for Youth Law, Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition, W. Haywood Burns Institute, Western Center on Law & Poverty (co-sponsor)

Why this Bill Matters

Probation is supposed to help youth succeed—not keep them stuck in the system. Yet right now youth living at home get clear probation timelines, while youth living in foster care and group homes often do not. That means some system-impacted youth stay on probation longer than necessary, with no clear end date.This creates a two-tier system where probation depends on housing status, not youth needs or safety.

The Problem

When youth are excluded from AB 1376 protections:

- Probation can last indefinitely, often disrupting development, education, and healing.
- Youth are punished for circumstances outside their control.
- Youth stay system-involved longer than needed.

That's not accountability—that's inequity.

What this Bill Does

AB 1886 makes sure all youth on non-custodial probation get the same protections —no matter where they live or what placement they're in. Right now, some youth benefit from clear probation timelines and regular court check-ins, while others don't. This bill fixes that imbalance.

Who is Most Impacted?

- Foster youth
- Youth of color
- Girls and LGBTQ+ youth

The Solution

AB 1886 extends the protections of AB 1376 to all youth on non-custodial probation, including youth in placement.

This bill would:

- Set a 12-month baseline probation limit, automatically ending probation at 12 months unless a judge clearly explains why more time is needed.
- Require court check-ins every 6 months if probation is extended.
- Ensure probation rules are:
  - Developmentally appropriate
  - Trauma-informed
  - Focused on rehabilitation, not punishment

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