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Established in 1978 by  
 David Packard

September 25, 2018

Members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
 70 West Hedding Street  
 San Jose, CA 95110

Members of the County Office of Education Board of Directors  
 1290 Ridder Park Drive  
 San Jose, CA 95131

**Re: Support for the Joint Foster Youth Task Force and the Foster Youth Action Aligned Network (FYAAN)**

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and Board of Education:

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group is proud to support your commitment to better outcomes for foster youth in our community. Soon, you will be considering recommendations developed by the Joint Foster Youth Task Force over the past 18 months that have the goal of parity in educational, employment and income outcomes for foster youth as compared to their non-foster peers. We strongly support these recommendations and this goal.

The Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 350 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues that affect the economic vitality and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, healthcare, tax policies, and the environment. Leadership Group members provide nearly one out of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

The Leadership Group has been actively involved with the FYAAN for the past year and helped craft many of the many recommendations from this Task Force workgroup. Notably, the goals and strategies laid out in the FYAAN proposal represent fully 25 percent of the final recommendations of the Task Force.

These goals and recommendations are laser-focused on education, employment and income outcomes for youth in foster care. These concepts, in brief:

1. We must establish a community goal that our foster youth will achieve parity in outcomes with all other youth in our community. Currently, they are well behind.
2. We must embrace and fully implement Data Zone and Foster Vision as comprehensive tracking systems that will combine data from school and social services systems. This will allow us to track outcomes and ensure that youth do not fall through the cracks that are created by inevitable changes in schools and home placements. It will also allow us to be held accountable to our commitments to our youth.
3. The definition of "foster youth" must be expanded so that resources are available to these young people even after their cases are closed. We know that simply closing the court case does not reverse the impacts of trauma. Cutting services off at this critical time is exactly the opposite of what should happen.

We are especially proud to point out that the FYAAN is an active and diverse collective impact collaborative that is already implementing the strategies that will lead to our goal of parity for our youth from foster care. Business leaders, school districts, nonprofits and government leaders are at the table and working through a well-developed and focused work plan.

Together, we can achieve this singular objective: **Youth from foster care in the high school class of 2021 will achieve parity in education, employment and income outcomes with their non-foster peers by 2026.**

We can be the first community in the nation to achieve these results. When children are placed in foster care, we must ensure we provide them the support and resources to help them achieve their dreams. We have fallen short on this promise for far too long.

We ask that you please support our efforts to fulfill our promise to youth from foster care. Adopt the goal of parity and support policies and resource allocations that will allow FYAAN members to execute on their strategies and objectives.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue, and we look forward to working with you to ensure our foster youth receive the support and resources that they deserve. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Escobar, Director of Policy & Education Programs at [pescobar@svlg.org](mailto:pescobar@svlg.org) or 408.501.7875.

Sincerely,



Carl Guardino  
President & CEO  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group



Paul Escobar  
Director, Policy & Education Programs  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group