

January-March 2025



SYSTEMS CHANGE POSTCARD

FLY'S 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

- Learn about FLY's sponsored legislation: Senate Bill 824, and Assembly Bills 802, 1279, and 1376.

FLY IN THE CAPITOL

- Meet the 2025 Youth Policy Fellows
- Fix School Discipline Day
- ABMoC Policy Briefing & Lobby Day

PEER POINT UPDATE

- Peer Point in Sacramento
- Peer Point and Sequoia Union School District Partnership

FLY's 2025 Policy Priorities



FLY is co-sponsoring four bills in 2025, the most bills we've ever sponsored in a year! Each of these bills has the potential to affect thousands of justice-impacted youth in California.

Beyond our sponsored legislation, FLY is actively tracking dozens of additional bills that could affect the young people we serve. The 2025 Youth Policy Fellows, together with our newly formed Staff Systems Change Committee, are leading the charge in determining which of these bills FLY will support or oppose.

Click the circles to learn more about FLY's 2025 co-sponsored bills

Ending the use of Three Strikes Against Our Youth

Providing Real Opportunity for Youth in SYTFs

Addressing Hunger & Nutrition in Juvenile Facilities

Ending Endless Probation across California



MEET FLY'S 2025 YOUTH POLICY FELLOWS

FLY's 2025 Youth Policy Fellows — Andrea, Eboni, Luca, Shaad, and Kevin — are already making big moves, alongside returning Lead Youth Policy Fellow Jose. This powerhouse team has traveled to Sacramento three times this year, researched over 50 bills, led 12 legislative visits, testified in Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committees, and presented FLY's policy priorities to hundreds at a major policy briefing.

Shaad, on his favorite part of the fellowship so far:

➤➤➤➤➤ **“What I love most about the Youth Policy Fellowship is that it feels like family. As a Black male, it’s liberating to be in spaces where I can learn how bills come into effect and how policy works. Traveling to Sacramento and standing with other organizations showed me that my voice can have a real impact.”**



Youth Policy Fellows: Luca, Shaad, and Kevin, underneath the Capitol Rotunda

YOUTH POLICY FELLOWS IN ACTION



At the end of March, the Youth Policy Fellows took action at the Capitol, testifying in both Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committee hearings. Luca voiced FLY's support for SB 498, and Shaad spoke in favor of AB 572. Kevin served as a lead witness in opposition to SB 19 — a bill that, if passed, would push more California students out of schools and deeper into the school-to-prison pipeline.

Here is portion of Kevin's powerful testimony:

»»»»» "When I was in middle school, I struggled. I made mistakes, I got behavior referrals, and before I knew it, I had a reputation. Instead of getting support, I got harassment. Every day, school resource officers targeted me... every day. I was just a kid, but I felt like a criminal. It wasn't because I was a bad kid—it was because my school wasn't meeting my needs. It got so bad that I didn't even want to go to school and stopped attending. Senate Bill 19 will only make this worse. It allows police intervention for anything perceived as a threat—even if it's just a joke, a mental breakdown, or expressing yourself through art. And like every punitive policy, it will target Black and Brown students the most."



Alliance for Boys and Men of Color Policy Briefing and Lobby Day



At the beginning of March, the Youth Policy Fellows teamed up with the Alameda County Youth Advisory Council for a powerful day of youth-led lobbying at the State Capitol. They advocated for FLY-supported and sponsored bills, led eight legislative visits, and connected with changemakers from across the state.

During their visits, youth met with staff from the offices of several legislators, including their own local representatives — Assemblymembers Mia Bonta and Buffy Wicks, and Senator Jesse Arreguín. They spoke with courage and conviction, sharing lived experiences to highlight the real impact of these bills and the urgent need for reform.



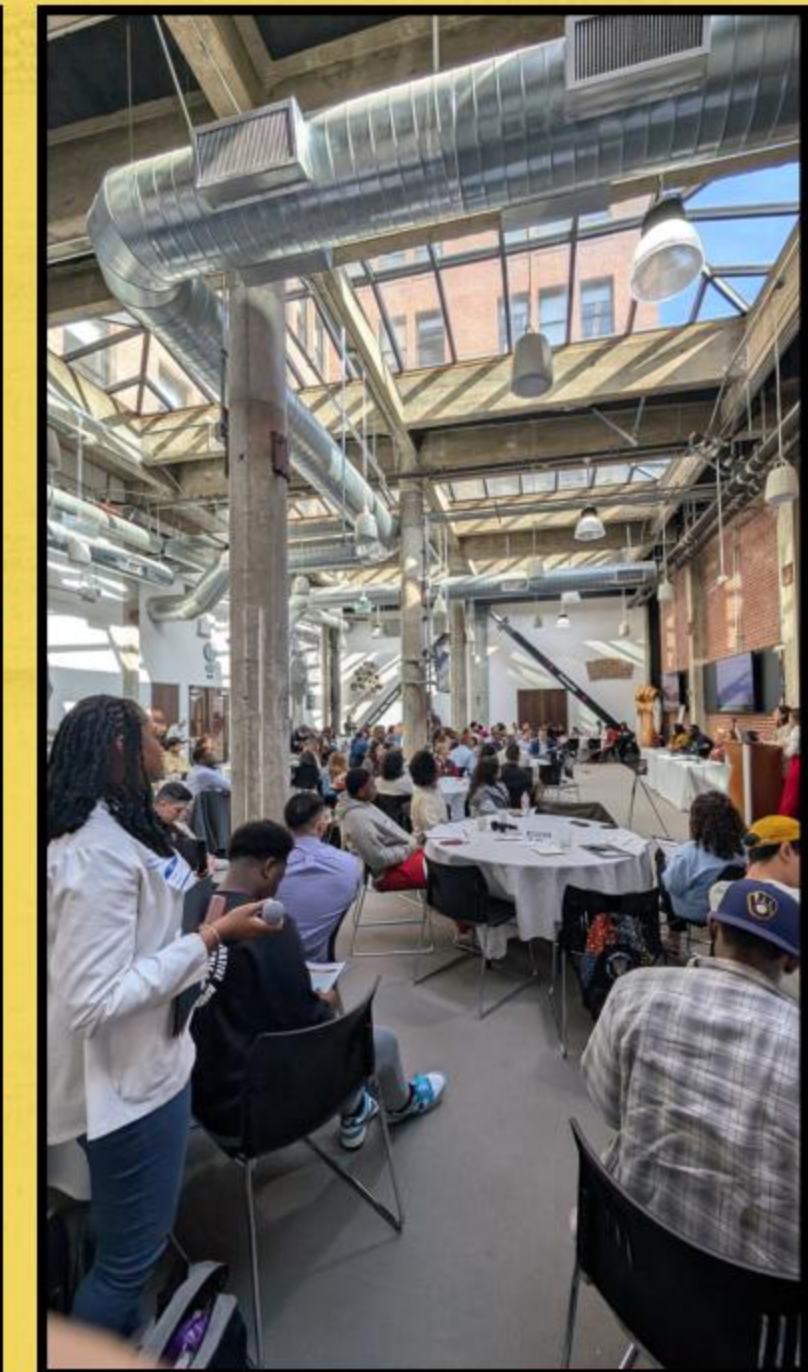
Youth Policy Fellow Highlight: Jose's Powerful Advocacy for SB 824



At the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color Policy Briefing, Lead Youth Policy Fellow Jose spoke in front of hundreds of advocates, leaders, and community members. He shared his personal reentry journey, highlighting the urgent need for Senate Bill 824 to ensure youth are supported—not set up to fail—when transitioning out of the system.

Here is a portion of Jose's powerful speech:

“I know what it takes to transition out of the system successfully—and I also know the barriers that make it harder than it should be. Without a clear plan, guidance, and the right support, young people are left to figure it out on their own, increasing the risk of failure. But with the right structure—one that SB 824 aims to strengthen—youth can take control of their future, just like I did. This bill is an opportunity to get it right—to create a system that prioritizes rehabilitation, accountability, and a real chance at success.”



Fix School Discipline Day!



In January, FLY's Youth Policy Fellows and the Peer Point team joined dozens of advocates at the State Capitol to demand more supportive and inclusive school discipline policies. Together, we demanded an end to discipline policies that criminalize normal adolescent behavior, cut students off from support, and fuel the school-to-prison pipeline—especially for Black, Brown, disabled, and other historically marginalized students. Youth Policy Fellows shared powerful personal stories, while Peer Point Manager Luc uplifted the success of FLY's restorative justice circles in San Mateo County. Their message was clear: every young person deserves to feel connected, supported, and valued at school—and that's only possible when we lead with restoration, not punishment.



Peer Point Update



In addition to joining the Policy Team in Sacramento, the Peer Point Program is expanding its impact within San Mateo County! The Peer Point Team is thrilled to announce its partnership with the Sequoia Union High School District to develop a new discipline matrix that incorporates restorative practices. On March 17th, the team facilitated its first professional development training session, engaging 30 teachers and administrators from the district. By equipping educators with restorative tools and strategies, the initiative is helping to bring the Peer Point model to even more students. It's a critical step toward disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline across the district by advancing a more inclusive and equitable approach to school discipline practices.

