

January-July 2026



SYSTEMS CHANGE POSTCARD

END ENDLESS PROBATION FOR ALL

- Impact of the End Endless Probation Act
- Continued Fight to End Endless Probation for All

FLY IN THE CAPITOL

- YOUTH Day
- ABMoC Lobby Day
- Fighting for Humane Conditions in Juvenile Halls

YOUTH POLICY FELLOWS

- Meet FLY's 2026 Youth Policy Fellows

UPDATES ON FLY'S 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES



Signed into Law: From Policy to Implementation!

AB 1376, the End Endless Probation Act, was signed into law last year! Since then, FLY and our partners have been training young people, service providers, and defense attorneys across the state on the new law. These trainings help youth understand their rights and ensure they and the adults who support them have the tools to advocate for fair and timely completion of probation.

Ending Juvenile Strikes: The Fight Continues!

Our campaign to End Juvenile Strikes is not over! Although AB 1279 did not have the votes to move forward in the Assembly in January, we are continuing to build momentum for this critical reform. We're collecting stories from impacted people across the state, strengthening our coalition, and gearing up to reintroduce the bill in 2027.



FLY's 2026 Policy Priorities

In 2026, FLY is co-sponsoring three bills: AB 1886, SB 1009, and AB 2318. These bills advance our continued focus on limiting unnecessary system contact while ensuring young people receive the care, support, and opportunities they need to thrive. Beyond our co-sponsored legislation, FLY has taken positions on 25 bills this year. Learn more about some of our key legislative priorities below:

Click the circles for more info!

The Community First, Detention Last Act

The End Endless Probation for All Act

Emergency Medical Care for Incarcerated Patients

Funding Non-Police Crisis Response

Banning Infrancion Bench Warrants

Allowing Youth in JH to Hug their Parents

No Side Job with ICE for CA Police Officers

MH Support for Youth Exposed to Gun Violence



FOUR YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR BETTER JUVENILE HALL CONDITIONS



What is the BSCC and what are the Title 15 and 24 Regulations?

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is a powerful state agency that oversees conditions in California's locked juvenile facilities. It sets and enforces the Title 15 and 24 Regulations—the rules probation departments must follow when operating juvenile halls, camps, ranches, and SYTFs.

How is FLY involved?

After nearly four years of advocacy, the process to revise the regulations is finally nearing the finish line. In 2022, FLY spoke with more than 300 youth and families about what needed to change inside juvenile halls. Since then, our Policy Team, Youth Policy Fellows, and partners across the state have fought to ensure those priorities are reflected in the new regulations—and we've won many important changes!

But one major issue remains: the inhumane use of chemical spray against incarcerated youth. FLY and our partners are organizing to urge the Board to fully ban chemical spray in juvenile facilities when it votes to approve the new regulations.

Stay tuned for updates after the final BSCC meeting later this year!



Alliance for Boys and Men of Color Lobby Day

FLY youth and staff joined advocates from across California for the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color (ABMoC) Policy Briefing and Lobby Day at the State Capitol in April. Together, we met with legislators and their staff to advance FLY and ABMoC policy priorities and build power alongside advocates from across the state.

A Full Circle FLY Moment!

During the lobby day, we met with Assemblymember Ash Kalra, a longtime FLY supporter and former FLY Board member! Before joining the Legislature, Asm. Kalra worked in the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office. This year, we're proud to support his bill, AB 2122, to end the use of bench warrants for infractions.



YOUTH DAY 2026!

YOUTH Day was a huge success, bringing together more than 50 system-impacted young people from across California for two days of advocacy, connection, and community at the State Capitol. FLY's Youth Policy Fellows helped shape the event as members of the planning committee and stepped into leadership as team leads for legislative visits. Together, young people shared their experiences directly with policymakers, built relationships with advocates from across the state, and demonstrated the power of youth voice in shaping policies that impact their lives.

Y.O.U.T.H.

Yes to Opportunities to Uplift, Thrive, and Heal!



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MEET LELANI MALDONADO: YOUTH POLICY FELLOW

Lelani is a youth advocate, student, and leader whose lived experience drives her passion for systems change. She joined FLY at age 13 through the Middle School Law Program and, after participating in several FLY programs, found her passion for policy through the Youth Policy Fellowship. Today, she uses her voice and experiences to advocate for change for young people impacted by the same systems that once impacted her.

“My favorite experiences have been advocating at the Capitol, giving public comment to the BSCC, and leading a training on public comment. I believe that youth are the solution to the problems we face.”
-Lelani



MEET EMILIANO DEL RIO: YOUTH POLICY FELLOW



Emiliano joined FLY in 2024 through the CAFA Mentor Program. Since then, he has continued growing as a leader through the Santa Clara County Youth Advisory Council and, most recently, FLY's Youth Policy Fellowship. Emiliano is a father, scholar, and opportunity chaser committed to using his voice to advocate for others.

“Getting to lobby in Sacramento has been my favorite part of the fellowship. It’s important to me because I have the opportunity to speak up for people whose voices aren’t always heard, including people who are incarcerated or undocumented.” -Emiliano



MEET DIEGO BALLESTEROS: YOUTH POLICY FELLOW



Diego is a single father, student, and hustler whose journey with FLY began at age 14 through the CAFA Mentor Program. Since then, he has participated in multiple FLY internships, served on the Youth Advisory Council, and, at 19, joined the Youth Policy Fellowship. Today, Diego draws on his lived experience to advocate for change within the systems that once impacted him.

“Youth are sacred. Youth are the present and the future, and it is imperative that we are involved in systems change. My favorite experience was YOUTH Day, where I got to connect with system-impacted advocates from across California and see the power we have when we come together. All power to the people.” -Diego

