



August 27, 2020

**VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author**

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 901 (Gipson) – Juveniles – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

**The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on AB 901,** which would eliminate truancy, and habitually refusing to obey parents, as criminal offenses subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Children who are pushed out of school and into the criminal justice system due to zero-tolerance discipline policies and minor offenses at school are also more likely to experience incarceration as adults. Furthermore, such laws disproportionately impact children of color and their repeal is a significant matter of racial justice.

The League supports early identification of at-risk children followed by appropriate referrals to services, not the criminalization of behavioral issues. We believe school systems should educate students and provide effective programs where there are attendance problems. County and city governments, public schools, communities and the private sector share responsibility for services to youth exhibiting challenging behavior.

This bill would remove the authority of the juvenile court to make children between 12 and 17 years-old a ward of the court based on truancy, and the authority of a school administrator to issue a notice to appear to a minor. It would only authorize a probation department to render direct and indirect services to people who are on probation and subject to supervision under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court system.

**For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California strongly urges your signature on AB 901.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg".

Carol Moon Goldberg  
President