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Statement from Economic Security Project Action in Support of California Bill to Provide Guaranteed Income for Homeless Students in Transition from High School to College

“We put so much emphasis on the idea that if young people go to college, they can get a good job and achieve their dreams,” said **Teri Olle, California Campaign Director for Economic Security Project Action**. “The reality is in the richest state in the richest country on earth, this path is essentially blocked for California high school students who are experiencing homelessness – and this number will only rise due to the economic fallout of the pandemic. The costs of higher education and living expenses, along with moving and books and other unexpected costs are often too daunting to overcome for youth already struggling with unstable housing and lack of financial support. That’s why we at the Economic Security Project Action are proud to sponsor SB 1341 (Cortese), which would give the 15,000 graduating seniors who are experiencing homelessness a guaranteed income in the transition months between high school and postsecondary education or employment. What we propose is simple: we’re going to give students in need direct payments and provide them with the support they need to take the next step in their education or career. This bold proposal will disrupt the cycle of poverty that interferes with the ability to imagine – and achieve – a better future. California can do right by its young people by ensuring that they can make their way into adulthood with the resources they need.”