

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Wendy Wang

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**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council Chair Martinez and Councilmembers, My name is Wendy Wang and I work for Sycamores, a nonprofit organization serving young people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Sycamores is the lead organization for the Youth Coordinated Entry System in LA County Service Planning Area 3. We are writing to o oppose Item #74, the proposed ordinance banning encampments from within 500 feet of schools and daycare centers. Youth homeless is a significant crisis that disproportionately impacts LGBTQ+ youth, young people who have exited the foster care system and youth from communities of color. According to Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, youth who are BLACK and LGBTQ+ reported the highest rate of homelessness. Chapin Hall researchers also highlight that 29% of youth who experience homelessness had been in the foster care system. In the City of Los Angeles, there are over one thousand LAUSD sites and over 600 private schools and hundreds of day care centers. If the City Council amends Section 41.18 to expand to schools and day care centers, there will be too many additional locations for the City of Los Angeles to oversee and provide support. The expansion of Section 41.18 perpetuates policies that criminalize homelessness. Without additional investments or innovative new solutions, the likeliest outcome of this ordinance expansion will be the further marginalization of unhoused families and students, many of whom remain close to the schools where they attend. Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Sincerely, Wendy Wang, MPP