(Date)

(Name)  
California State Legislature

(Address)

Re: Girl Scouts

Dear (Legislator Name):

I am a proud volunteer of Girl Scouts San Diego (include Troop #/SU name & # here if you like; Board member) and I am writing to seek your assistance regarding a piece of legislation that you voted for in 2021: AB506. While well intentioned, AB506 is not funded and is placing a significant burden on nonprofit organizations. This mandate will cost California Girl Scout councils alone, in excess of $4 million to comply.

AB506 is intended to protect children by mandating background checks for volunteers at youth organizations. This is a perfectly laudable goal and the Girl Scouts support background checks. Unfortunately, AB 506 went further than just mandating background checks. Instead, it mandated that only one type of background check would be acceptable; Live Scan, which is considerably more expensive than other types of background checks. Like many other organizations, funding declined as a result of COVID, yet, we are now being hit with a significant new cost.

Considering that the state has sufficient reserves, we are asking for your help. We implore you to please establish a grant program to help youth organizations cover the upfront costs of Live Scans. This does not have to be an ongoing program because the biggest financial hit will be the front-end costs. At a time when the state should be encouraging participation in youth organizations, we implore you to please help with this significant financial burden.

Respectfully,

(Name)