Date:

Name
California State Legislature

(Address)

Re: Girl Scouts

Dear (Legislator Name):

I am a proud volunteer of the Girl Scouts (location/chapter) and I am writing to seek your assistance regarding a piece of legislation that you voted for in 2021; AB 506. I agree with the legislation to protect our children, and while well intentioned, AB 506 was a significant unfunded mandate for volunteer organizations, which will cost the Girl Scouts alone, in excess of $5 million to comply.

AB 506 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 nonprofit organizations, membership 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)