

## Comment 3517, submitted by Atasi Uppal

How Submitter Knows Applicant: Former colleague at National Center for Youth Law

Submitted On: 08/05/2020

### Comment:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in unequivocal support of Angela Vazquez, who would be an excellent member of the Citizen's Redistricting Commission. I was privileged to work with Angela at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL), for approximately 3 years. Both while she worked at NCYL and in her career afterward, Angela has been a respected expert in children's rights policy. I have maintained close contact with her since she left our organization and have consulted with her on numerous occasions regarding her particular area of expertise - child welfare and education policy.

When she was at NCYL, Angela provided significant assistance to our FosterEd program, advancing both regional policy reform in Los Angeles County and playing a key role in statewide policy work. All of her policy work benefitted children, particularly the most underserved children - those who were in foster care and living in low income households. Not only was Angela smart and productive, but she was also known to take initiative on projects that others shied away from because of their challenging nature. For example, she led the charge in analyzing scores of school districts' Local Control and Accountability Plans to assess whether they followed state legal mandates to direct certain education funds to foster youth. Angela was able to sift through complicated data and budgets to understand how these districts were both succeeding and how they could take significant steps forward to better serve students in foster care.

As an attorney who focuses on litigation and policy work across multiple issue areas, I know how difficult it can be to both maintain an up to date understanding of laws and policies that impact my work, and also determine how those intersecting laws and policies should be implemented and/or refined in order to lead to just outcomes. I watched Angela practice both of these skills during her time at the National Center for Youth Law. At NCYL, her work undoubtedly advanced the education rights of thousands of California's children in foster care. She is a bright, curious and forward-thinking policy expert who will be an incredible asset to this Commission.

Sincerely,  
Atasi Uppal