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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GENup 2022-2023 Policy Celebration *Press release*

**Sacramento, CA, 29 November 2023** — Generation Up hosted a Zoom call to congratulate individuals for their incredible advocacy work this past year. We came together to celebrate the 23 bills, which GENup either co-sponsored or wrote, that were signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom. Four of the 23 bills were written by GENup's very own students.

GENup wants to extend a special thank you to our guests and speakers: Ted Lempert, President of Children Now, Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, Senator Anthony Portantino, Ryan Lenney, GENup's Director of Collegiate Policy, Senator Josh Becker, Senator Scott Wiener, Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Mike Fong, Assemblymember James Ramos, Assemblymember Alex Lee, Christopher Nellum, Executive Director of The Education Trust – West, and Assemblymember Marc Berman. It was a pleasure to have such incredible leaders across California join GENup's celebration, and GENup is extremely grateful for their continuous support.

We first heard from Ted Lempert, President of Children Now. Commenting on GENup's advocacy and involvement in numerous bills, Lempert stated, "What you guys have done, on a volunteer basis, in terms of the number of bills you've pursued, the policies you've changed, it's just truly remarkable and I think really a testament to what we need so much more of in California and throughout the country and that is true student leadership – not leaders of tomorrow, leaders of today... You know better than anyone what's really happening in our schools, what's happening to young people today both in K-12 and higher ed." Throughout this past year, GENup's dedication to uplifting students has driven our advocacy. We will continue to prioritize representing student voices through our advocacy work.

Senator Nancy Skinner spoke on the power youth have to make a difference in their communities. She said, "Your successes, your existence, the good work that you do, is demonstration of the power of when students come together and organize on their own behalfs." It was a pleasure to work with Senator Skinner on her bill SB 274, ending willful defiance suspensions.

We then addressed individual bills. This year, GENup's K-12 and Collegiate team worked on several bills, including AB 873, AB 714, AB 461, AB 1138, and AB 226. Many GENup members spoke on these bills, including our Executive Director Alvin Lee, our former Director of Collegiate Policy Kimberly Woo, Co-Chief of Policy and Legislative Director Ria Babaria, Chief Policy & Legislative Director Fiona Lu, and Collegiate Chief Policy and Legislative Director Ryan Lenney.

GENup Executive Chief of Policy and Programs Genavieve Koenigshofer concluded the policy celebration. She stated, "I'm so, so proud of what we have accomplished here. I know that I will be able to look back on my college experience knowing that I and we made a difference in the future of California's education."

If you are interested in watching or sharing a video of the celebration call, the recording can be viewed on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/GENupPolicyCeleb2023>.

GENup is excited to celebrate our policy wins, and we will continue to amplify youth voices to advocate for effective policy.

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