

## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Step UP Theatre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:31 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** Agenda Item B.1 ARPA Study Session

Hello! I am commenting on Agenda Item B.1 ARPA Study Session. I stand with youth leaders urging the Merced City Council to fund youth futures by directing \$2.5 million dollars towards a guaranteed income program for young people and \$500,000 to create a jobs program specifically for 100 Merced high school youth.

It is an absolute privilege to have our youth so invested in the future of this community, and in their own futures. This is the dream of so many parents. It's our duty as adults to listen to their dreams, take them seriously, and help them succeed in this campaign.

Investing in young people is an investment in our collective future that will be felt throughout this crisis and benefit all of California for generations to come. We've already seen successful implementation of Universal Basic Income programs in other Central Valley communities such as Stockton. Now more than ever, we need to fund our futures and invest in our young people. Thank you for your time.

Jamie

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