



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

April 22, 2013

The Honorable Rob Bonta
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6025
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 319-2118

RE: AB 174 (Bonta) Services in School-Based Health Centers for Students Impacted by Trauma — SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a national leader in youth violence prevention and federal technical assistance provider for hospitals and communities seeking to reduce gun injuries by ministering to the needs of young people injured by gun violence, I write to express support for Assembly Bill 174. With 22 years of violence education, prevention, and intervention, Youth ALIVE! knows that violence – and the trauma it brings – is pervasive. It is not enough to simply acknowledge that students are hurting from the trauma they experience; we must help them to heal.

Youth already learn about violence, at best in the media and at worst in their own neighborhoods. Ensuring they have safe space to cope with the effects of that violence, and any other traumatic events in their lives, is a wise investment. Healthy students can focus more readily on their studies and are able to find productive ways to work through their problems rather than methods that are disruptive to them and their classmates.

AB 174 will create a grant program to fund school-based mental health services for students impacted by trauma. Please consider my support for AB 174 and help to create a healthier Oakland and a healthier California.

Signed,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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