



# AB 2100 (Bonta) – Reauthorization of AB 1629

*(As Introduced)*

## Summary

AB 2100 would reauthorize reimbursements to violence prevention professionals for counseling services provided to violently injured crime victims under the Victims Compensation Fund.

## Background

In 1965, California established the nation's first Victim Compensation Program; it has since changed its name to California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB). CalVCB provides compensation for victims of violent crimes; eligible victims may be reimbursed for many crime-related expenses, including crime scene clean-up, relocation, lost income, burial expenses, home security, medical treatment, domestic violence and rape peer counseling, and mental health services.

Funding from the program comes from restitution fines and penalty assessments paid by criminal defenders into a Special Fund. Pursuant to the federal Victims of Crime Act, the federal government generally reimburses the state for 60% of its annual victim compensation costs. State law also authorizes the California Victim Compensation Board to reimburse victim service providers directly for providing eligible services, such as mental health counseling.

In 2014, the California Legislature enacted AB 1629 (Bonta), authorizing CalVCB to reimburse crime victims for outpatient mental health counseling related-expenses, including (but not limited to) costs related to "violence peer counseling services provided by a service organization for victims of violent crime." Subject to strict limitations, certified services organizations can therefore bill CalVCB directly for providing violence peer counseling services to violently injured crime victims and their families. In 2016, the Legislature enacted SB 1324 (Hancock) to extend the program's sunset date to January 1, 2019. Without legislative action this year the program will expire.

## Proposal

AB 2100 would remove the sunset provision that was established pursuant to SB 1324 (Hancock) to continue

reimbursements to violence prevention professionals for counseling services to crime victims under the VCB.

Additionally, AB 2100 makes the following changes to the current law:

- Changes the reimbursement rate from a maximum of \$15 to a rate that is not less than one-half of the reimbursement rate set by the board for individual or family counseling services provided by mental health interns.
- Expands the service period limit from 10 weeks to 20 weeks.
- Expands benefits to people on parole and probation, unless the board determines that a denial is appropriate.

## Sponsor

Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
Californians for Safety and Justice  
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice  
Fathers and Families of the San Joaquin  
Giffords Law Center  
Healing Dialogue and Action  
Khmer Girls in Action  
National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform  
RYSE Youth Center  
Urban Peace Institute  
WellSpace Health  
Youth ALIVE!  
Youth Justice Coalition

## Support

Fresno Barriers Unidos

## Opposition

None of file

## CONTACT

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