February 14, 2021



**Senator Steve Glazer**

Attn: Caila Pedroncelli

Capitol Office

State Capitol, Room 5108

Sacramento, CA 95814

EMAIL: Caila.Pedroncelli@sen.ca.gov

CC: info@beingwellca.org

**SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Mental Health Awareness License Plate Senate Bill, (SB21 Glazer)**

Dear Senator Glazer,

On behalf of (ORGANIZATION OR PERSON), I respectfully submit my support of the **Mental Health Awareness License Plate (SB21)**. This bill authorizes the DMV to issue a specialty license plate. Funds raised by this plate will go the **California Department of Education** to support on Campus Wellness Centers for student mental health. This legislation has the ability to raise tens of millions of dollars to equitably fund school mental health support for decades to come.

Even before the current COVID-19 pandemic, anxiety, depression and suicide rates among students and educators had been increasing drastically. Now, this mental health crisis has grown significantly under the weight of isolation and uncertainty. California Healthy Kids Survey or CalSCHLS results show a marked increase in the rates of anxiety, depression and suicide ideation in our students. In some districts, the responses by female Juniors indicate that 51% have experienced depression that year, with some school results reporting a 24% suicide ideation rate.

As a State we can be proud of how our leadership has addressed the physical aspects of the pandemic. The need to bring mental health to the forefront is CRITICAL. National Crisis Call Centers are reporting an increase of 886% in call volume AND the calls are more severe in nature. We are just seeing the tip of the iceberg as we all adjust to a post pandemic California. Mental health will be the next crisis as students return to campus after ten months isolation and disruption.

Thank you for authoring this bill and, please accept this letter of support for the Mental Health Awareness License Plate Bill (SB21 Glazer).

Sincerely,

***{SIGNED}***