



**California
Behavioral Health
Planning Council**

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

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MS 2706

June 23, 2026

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

Senate Education Committee

1021 O Street, Suite 6740

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2460 – Pupil health: mental health: model referral protocols.

Dear Senator Pérez:

On behalf of the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC), I am writing to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 2460 (C. Rodriguez).

Public Law 102-321 requires the California Behavioral Health Planning Council to advocate for people with lived experience of serious mental illness. Under Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5771 and 5772, we also advise the Department of Health Care Services and the Legislature on behavioral health policies and priorities. Our members include people with lived experience, family members, parents of children with serious emotional disturbances, service providers, professionals, and representatives from state departments. Their perspectives help shape our recommendations.

AB 2460 would require the California Department of Education, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, to update the model referral protocols for addressing pupil behavioral health concerns to include guidance on providing equity-centered mental health supports in cases of local emergencies related to immigration enforcement activities or deportations of pupils or their family members, and would require local educational agencies to adopt updated policies accordingly.

Children in immigrant communities are experiencing fear, anxiety, and trauma as they attempt to navigate the threat of immigrant enforcement, detention, and family separation. These harms fall especially hard on



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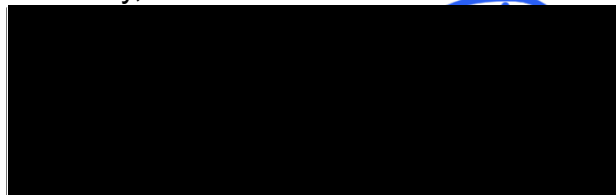
students from immigrant families, including children in mixed-status households, whose emotional well-being and ability to learn can be disrupted both at home and at school.

A 2025 Stanford study found that student absences rose 22 percent in Central Valley districts affected by immigration raids, while California education officials have recognized the “increased fear of immigration enforcement” facing immigrant families and warned that the threat of enforcement can impair students’ ability to thrive in school.

AB 2460 ensures that students impacted by immigration enforcement and family instability have access to the support and care necessary to safeguard their wellbeing.

For these reasons, the CBHPC supports AB 2460. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer, at (916) 750-3778 or via e-mail at Jenny.Bayardo@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tony Vartan
Chairperson

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez
Honorable Members, Senate Education Committee
Jenilee Fermin, Legislative Director
Lupe Leon, Legislative Assistant