Protect Funding for Children and Youth in Changes to the MHSA

Dear Governor Newsom and State Legislators,

The undersigned organizations urge you to include set-asides for children and youth, ages 0-25, in any changes to Proposition 63, also known as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Since 2005, the MHSA has worked to fill in funding gaps where the State has underinvested, especially in the areas of prevention and children's services that impact our infants and toddlers, school-age children, and transition age youth. We are deeply concerned by the current proposal, outlined in Senate Bill 326 (Eggman), to severely limit and re-route hard fought investments away from child-serving programs.

According to recent data, rates of anxiety and depression among California's children have shot up by 70% and one-third of California adolescents experienced serious psychological distress between 2019 and 2021, including a 20% increase in adolescent suicides. Despite overwhelming research and data documenting the youth mental health crisis in California, the proposed changes could eliminate spending requirements on services for children and youth, which means counties would have the option to spend $0 on children's mental health moving forward.

We applaud the State's recent investment in California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) and the largely one-time investment of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI). However, those investments have yet to be analyzed to understand if the promises of CalAIM and the CYBHI have been delivered. It is premature to reroute funds from the MHSA due to the introduction of CalAIM and the CYBHI, when we have yet to fully realize and understand the impact of these investments.

For years, children's advocates have worked to ensure MHSA funding prioritizes children and youth given the historic lack of focus on this population. These efforts resulted in programs that address the broad spectrum of needs of children, youth and their caregivers/families, including services such as, but not limited to:

- Parent coaching and education programs like Triple P (Positive Parenting Program): a parent support program that helps parents learn strategies to promote social competence and self-regulation in children.
- Suicide Prevention with Schools: to support school age youth in identifying and referring individuals at risk of self-harm and suicidality.
- Kinship Supportive Services: to provide individual and group supportive services to grandparents and/or other relative caregivers who are raising a relative's child(ren).
- School Based/Linked Behavioral Health Services, Supports, and Training: for ongoing support for all children and youth in schools, regardless of insurance status. These services continue in the community after school hours, during summers, and on weekends.
- Family Resource Centers: flexible, family-focused, and culturally sensitive hubs of support and resources that provide programs and targeted services based on the needs and interests of families. Family Resource Centers serve diverse populations and are located in a variety of community settings, including schools, housing, and stand-alone community-based programs.

To continue addressing our state's youth mental health crisis, we cannot divert or eliminate funding currently set-aside for children and youth and, therefore, urge the Governor and Legislature to set aside funds for children and youth ages 0-25 in every category of MHSA funding outlined in the proposed changes.

Sincerely,
The Undersigned Organizations

CC: The Honorable Toni G. Atkins
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Akiiah Weber
Chair, Assembly Subcommittee 1 on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Health Committee
Joe Parra
Principal Consultant, California State Senate Republican Caucus
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North Marin Community Services
Oakland Starting Smart and Strong
Oceanic Preservation Society

Open Immigration Legal Services, Inc.
Open Source Wellness
Optimal Solutions Consulting
Our Turn California

Oxnard Performing Arts Center
Pacific Clinics
Para Los Niños
Parent Teen Bridges

Parent Teen Bridges
Parents as Teachers National Center
Parents Helping Parents
Partnership for Children and Youth

Pasadena Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders
Pathways LA
Peninsula Family Service
Peninsula Youth Theatre
Stars Behavioral Health Group  Taft Union High School District  Teens4Teens Help  The Achievable Foundation

The California Children’s Trust  The Center for Early Childhood Connections  The Child Unique Montessori School  The Children’s Movement of Fresno

The Children’s Partnership  The Eli Home for Abused Children  The Lake School  The Los Angeles Trust for Children’s Health

The Mom and Dad Project  The Oakland Public Education Fund  The Opportunity Institute  The Primary School

The Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence  The Scott Foundation  The Stephan Center  The Whole Child Mental Health and Housing Services

1404 Franklin Street, Ste 700, Oakland, California 94612  www.childrennow.org/themovement
Therapeutic Play Foundation, Inc.

Today's Youth Matter

Trinidad Civic Club

Tulelake/Newell Family Resource Center

United Parents

United Way of Santa Cruz County

Urban Strategies Council

Valley Achievement Center

Valley Oak Children's Services, Inc.

Via International

Village Community Resource Center

Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services

Walden Family Services

Wayfinder Family Services

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

WestCoast Children's Clinic

Willows in the Wind

Worksite Wellness LA

World of Powerful Youth

WOW Explorations
YMCA of San Diego County  Yolo County Green Party  Young Minds Advocacy  Young Storytellers

Youth Alliance  Youth For Change  Youth Transforming Justice  Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way

ZERO TO THREE, Western Office
The Children’s Movement of California
List of Signed Organizations

1st Place 2 Start
211 San Bernardino
3Strands Global Foundation
A Better Way, Inc.
A Greater Hope
AbilityPath
Access California Services
Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project
Acterra
AdvocacySD
Advokids
Aeries Software
AIM Youth Mental Health
Alameda Family Services
All Five
Alliance for Children’s Rights
Almaden Valley Counseling Service
Altura Centers for Health
Alum Rock Counseling Center
Alum Rock School District
Amanecer Consulting Group
American Indian Child Resource Center
American SPCC
American Sports Institute
Amundson Consulting
Architects of Hope
Aspiranet
Association of California School Administrators
Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA)
Aviva Family & Children’s Services
BANANAS, Inc.
Barnabas Charity Outreach
Bay Area Professional Family Child Care Network
Berkeley Food Network
Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach
Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods
Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County
Bridge the Gap
Bridge the Gap College Prep
BUILD
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo School of Education
CALICO Center
California Alliance of Caregivers
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC)
California Association of School Counselors
California Association of School Psychologists
California Church IMPACT
California Coalition for Youth
California Counseling Associates
California Infant Development Association
California Youth Connection
Capital Stage
Carolyn Kordich Family Resource Center
Casa De Amparo
CASA of Lassen Family Services
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families
Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children, Inc.
Center for Autism and Related Disorders
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
Center for Health Justice
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Children’s Specialty Care Coalition
City Youth Now
Civicorps
Coastal Kids Home Care
Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra
Community Partnership for Youth
Community Solutions

Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau
Cookie Good
Cope Family Center
Coronado Democratic Club
Crime Survivors, Inc.
Crisis Support Services of Alameda County
CSUSB Early Childhood Programs
Davis Street Family Resource Center
DC Children’s Trust Fund
Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services
Doors of Change
Dorris Dann Kids Campus
Dunsmuir Community Resource Center
Early Education Action League
Easterseals Southern California
Edgewood Center for Children and Families
Educate California
Enriching Lives through Music
EntreNous Youth Empowerment Services
Escobar Family Child Care
Escuela de la Raza Unida
Everychild Foundation
Evolve California
FACTS (Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety)
Families Forward Learning Center
Family Connections
Family Matters SBC / Transcend Educational Services
The Children’s Movement of California

List of Signed Organizations

Family Paths, Inc.
First 5 Association of California
First 5 Fresno County
First 5 Orange County
First 5 Sacramento
First 5 San Benito County
First 5 San Mateo County
First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission
First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, UCC
Footsteps Child Care, Inc.
Foster Care Counts
Fred Finch Youth and Family Services
Freedom 4 Youth
Fresh Approach
Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention
From the Heart Preschool & Enrichment Center
Full Court Press Communications
Gardner Rodriguez
Girls on the Run Bay Area
Going Digital: Behavioral Health Tech
Good2Know Partners
Growing Outreach Growing Opportunities
Harmony At Home
Haven of Hope, Inc.
Healing Together
Health Action Together
Heisters Generative
Help Me Grow San Mateo County
Helpline Youth Counseling
Hillides
Hip Housing
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley
Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County
Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Collaboration
I’m a Movement Not a Monument
Imagine LA
InPlay
InsideOUT Writers
Integrated Behavioral Health Research Institute
Interface Children and Family Services
Israeli-American Civic Action Network
It’s Your Move Games
Just in Time for Foster Youth
Kamali’i Foster Family Agency
Katki Molloy Windsor
Kelechi Ubozoh Consulting
Kern County Network for Children
Kids & Families Together
Koinonia Family Services
Krause Center for Innovation
Laura Valles & Associates
Lauren’s House 4 Positive Change Inc
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Pathways LA
Peninsula Family Service
Peninsula Youth Theatre
Penny Lane Centers
Phenomenal Families
Placer Nature Center
PLUS ME Project
PODER (People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights)
PRO Youth and Families
Project KnuckleHead
Promesa Behavioral Health
Puente de la Costa Sur
Raise A Child Inc.
Realized Potential Inc
Redwood Community Services
Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship, UC Merced
River City Democratic Club
West Sacramento
Roots Education
RYSE
San Benito County Office of Education
San Diego Center for Children
San Diego Council on Literacy
San Diego for Every Child
San Diego Hunger Coalition
San Fernando Community Health Center
San Francisco Department of Early Childhood
San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center
San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)
## The Children’s Movement of California

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