



LACEF-backed legislation to expand mental health services at school health centers to aid students coping with incidents of violence advances in State Capitol

California students struggling to cope with shootings, gang violence and other traumatic events today have a rising hope of receiving critical mental health counseling at their school-based health center with state Assembly Health Committee passage of LACEF-sponsored legislation authored by Oakland Assemblymember Rob Bonta.

Bonta said, "Many children are faced with serious traumatic complications from growing up in a violent environment, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, which among other things, make it difficult to become an engaged and productive student at school."

Bonta's Assembly Bill 174 ([read here](#)) would expand student access to trauma-informed mental health services through school-based health centers where care is accessible, affordable, and youth-friendly.

"SBHCs put medical, mental health, and, in some instances, dental care on school grounds across the state. SBHCs are a proven model for delivering effective mental health services. Not only can school-based mental health care reduce both depression and post-traumatic stress disorders. They are significantly better than other care settings at reaching adolescents," Bonta said.

LACEF strongly supports passage of Bonta's bill as part of our 'L.A. County Campaign for School Health Centers' launched this year and our \$3 million 'Stay Well Learn Well® School Health Center Initiative' unveiled in 2011.

Join our effort to expand mental health services for students through school health centers on neighborhood campuses. [Click here for facts on AB 174.](#)

Show your support for children coping with violence and traumatic incidents by supporting AB 174 ([click here](#))

For more information on school health centers, please visit our 'Stay Well Learn Well® School Health Center Initiative webpage ([click here](#)).

Join LACEF's 'L.A. County Campaign for School Health Centers' in your school district!