

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND  
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JUNE 11, 2019

**Support for the Mental Health Services for Students Act (H.R.1109)**

The County of Los Angeles recognizes the need for expanded mental health services for our young people. Recently, the Board of Supervisors passed the Los Angeles County Community Schools Initiative which identifies several high need school districts to implement a pilot program that provides onsite mental health services on school campuses, in addition to other coordinated regional efforts. This initiative is being led by the Department of Mental Health, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and school administrators.

According to a recent study by the Journal of Abnormal Psychology, rates of major depressive episodes among adolescents aged 12-17 increased 52% between 2005 and 2017. The study found a similar increase in rates of major depressive episodes among young adults aged 18-25, which increased 63% between 2009 and 2017. When examining the rates of suicide attempts between 2008-2017 the study found that rates among young adults aged 18-19 had a 22% increase, young adults aged 20-21 had a 87% increase, and young adults aged 22-23 had a 108% increase. These statistics are alarming, and clearly demonstrate the immediate need for expanded access to mental health services.

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MOTION

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On February 8, 2019 Congresswoman Grace Napolitano introduced the Mental Health Services for Students Act (H.R. 1109). The Mental Health Services for Students Act will provide \$200,000,000 in competitive grants of up to \$2 million each to provide on-site licensed mental health professionals in schools across the country. Funding will be distributed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which will set guidelines and measure the outcomes of the funded programs. We commend Congresswoman Grace Napolitano for her leadership in Congress on this issue, and support her efforts to address the need for school based mental health services.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to send a five-signature letter in support of the Mental Health Services for Students Act, which will provide \$200,000,000 in competitive grants to establish school based mental health services for students.

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