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California State Senate

SENATOR
ANNA M. CABALLERO
TWELFTH SENATE DISTRICT



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BY: _____

February 25, 2020

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
Attention: Cheryl Ward, Procurement Official
1325 J Street, Suite 1700
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Grant

Dear Ms. Ward,

I strongly support the multi-partner application to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, which includes participation from Monterey County Behavioral Health, the Monterey County Office of Education, and several school districts in the City of Salinas and the southern region of Monterey County. The application proposes implementing multi-tiered behavioral health supports in public schools, with the goal of whole school transformation through culture and climate work.

As the State Senator representing District 12, which encompasses the majority of Monterey County, I am aware of the unique needs of the families in south Monterey County. Many families in these rural and underserved areas are experiencing economic stressors, such as chronic poverty and homelessness. County and state level responses are necessary to successfully address the critical local needs of youth and families in the area. While Monterey County Behavioral Health has attempted to meet this crisis, the level of need has outpaced the county's resources and requires a cross-sector, collaborative and innovative response. This MHSSA grant represents an ideal and well-timed opportunity for our county partners to come together to enhance the continuum of care we seek to provide to our students and families, particularly in the more underserved southern region of our county. Monterey County Behavioral Health has continued to apply for new funding, the OAC School Based Mental Health grant, but has been unsuccessful so far.

I strongly believe the proposed program will provide much-needed whole school support to the youth and families of south Monterey County, which will positively impact our entire community. Thank you for your consideration of this application. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact my office at 831-769-8040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna M. Caballero" followed by a horizontal flourish.

Anna M. Caballero
Senator, District 12