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California State Senate

SENATOR
ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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September 22, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Room 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: REQUEST FOR VETO ON ASSEMBLY BILL 665 (CARRILLO)

Dear Governor Newsom,

I respectfully request your veto of Assembly Bill 665, which would eliminate the requirement that a minor must be a harm to themselves or others – or the victim of child abuse or incest – before they may consent to mental health and residential shelter services without the consent or knowledge of their parents.

I share the author's concerns regarding the mental health crisis amongst our youth. However, by removing the requirement that a minor must experience extenuating circumstances to consent to mental health services on their own, we ignore the right of parents to make informed decisions regarding their child's health. The Legislature should instead amend Health and Safety Code 124260 to ensure that minors on Medi-Cal can access mental health services in the same way as minors who are privately insured.

With a third of our youth experiencing serious psychological distress and a 20 percent increase in adolescent suicides, the state should consider parents a partner in – rather than an obstacle to – their child's recovery. Support systems, including our families, are effective tools in overcoming mental health challenges. Unless there are circumstances outside of the norm, parents should be included in all decisions related to their child's health, both physical and mental.

I respectfully request your veto of AB 665. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you would like to further discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH
Senator, 23rd District