October 6, 2026

The Honorable Senator Shannon Grove
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 39 – Mental Health Access and Support Act

Dear Senator Grove:

The California Teachers Association (CTA) supports Senate Bill 39, the Mental Health Access and Support Act, which would establish a statewide program to improve awareness and access to mental health resources for young people.

Mental health plays an important role in a student's ability to succeed in school. Students experiencing mental health challenges may have difficulty focusing, attending school regularly, completing assignments, or participating in the classroom. SB-39 would help address these challenges by making information about counseling, community-based providers, and crisis resources more accessible to students and their families.

CTA particularly supports the bill's requirement for the Department of Health Care Services to coordinate with schools, local agencies, community organizations, and qualified mental health providers. Schools are often one of the first places where students may show signs that they need additional support. Giving educators and families better information about available services can help connect students with appropriate resources earlier.

SB-39 would also provide educational materials for schools, families, and communities. This can help students and their families better understand common mental health concerns, recognize warning signs, and learn how to access available services. The bill also protects students' and families' confidentiality rights and does not require anyone to receive mental health treatment.

Teachers cannot address every mental health need on their own. Educators need access to qualified professionals and community resources so they can better support students while remaining focused on education. By improving referrals and increasing awareness of available services, SB-39 could strengthen the support systems available to students and schools.

For these reasons, the California Teachers Association supports SB-39 and respectfully urges the Legislature to consider the benefits this legislation could provide to California students, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

California Teachers Association

Governmental Relations Department