To the Honorable Shannon Grove
Senate Minority Leader
1021 O Street, Suite 7150
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 39 - Support

Dear Senator Shanon Grove

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 39 An Act Improving Access to Mental Health Services.

Accessible mental health care is extremely important and needed more than ever. Over the last few years our officers have been called to handle a multitude of mental health related cases. Oftentimes what is seen upon the arrest of these individuals is the consistent lack of mental health support. The lack of support often leads to individuals reoffending, oftentimes upping the severity of their crime upon their release from prison. Existing records would also suggest that many mentally ill violent offenders have faced these mental health conditions from a young age.

By providing communities with expanded mental health care, individuals can receive intervention early on. This early intervention has been proven to be more successful in aiding individuals as opposed to those who don't begin receiving care until their adulthood. Without adequate mental health support teenagers and young adults are vulnerable to engaging in violent behaviors. In the last couple of years there have been an increased number of violent cases committed by individuals under the age of 18. Violent cases including but not limited to the sexual assault and murder of children, teens, and adults. Many of these individuals have shown prior signs of mental health problems, many receiving very limited support and some not

receiving any help at all. Due to negative stigmas or fear many parents don't seek the help their children need, some may not even know what the warning signs are. By addressing these issues early on we can help prevent the number of adult violent offenders which pose a significantly greater threat to both the public and our peace officers.

For these reasons we support SB-39

Sincerely,



Abby Silva (She/her) - Lobbyist
PORAC / CCPOA / California Association for Highway Patrolmen