

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY of CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

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February 25, 2025

Dear Senator Padilla,

As child and adolescent psychiatrists in the state of California, we strongly support the health and wellbeing of all of California's youth.

We strongly support parents' rights and patient autonomy in seeking gender affirming care and the right for healthcare providers to exercise their medical ethics to treat patients to the best of their ability, relying on scientific facts. Every day, California youth and their families are trying their best to seek out medical and psychological assessment and treatment to help them be the healthiest they can be. This includes gender affirming care in the same way it pertains to any other aspect of care. We strongly encourage you to help us advocate for California youth, their families, and the providers who care for them by protecting access to gender affirming care for Californians.

We strongly support family unity and full access to schools, places of worship, and healthcare facilities. Access to such institutions is vital for the health and wellbeing of all. We oppose any measures restricting these basic human rights, as this is extremely detrimental to the health and wellbeing of Californians. Separation of families causes trauma and leaves innocent children more susceptible to anxiety and depression and could potentially trigger other mental health conditions. We encourage and support your continued efforts to protect these spaces from deportation and policing efforts.

Thank you for supporting the health and wellbeing of all California youth and families.

Sincerely,



Ijeoma Ijeaku MD MPH DFAPA

President

