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Coalition Applauds Unanimous Senate Passage of SB 428

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California State Senate has passed SB 428 by a unanimous, bipartisan vote (38-0). The bill requires a percentage of staff and teachers in each California school to be trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA). YMHFA is a comprehensive training specifically designed to equip educators, family members, and caregivers with the skills and knowledge to identify, understand, and respond to the signs or risk factors of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth. The purpose of the bill is to increase school and community-level capacity to tackle California’s growing youth mental health crisis. The legislation now moves to the California State Assembly.

SB 428 is supported by a coalition consisting of Born This Way Foundation, California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA), and Children Now.

Following the Senate’s action, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, a spokesperson for the coalition and Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs for CBHA said:

“We applaud all the members of the California State Senate for their unanimous support of SB 428. This resounding vote sends a message that California’s leaders are committed to the mental wellbeing of our students. Our coalition of service providers and experts firmly believe that SB 428 will give our teachers the critical tools they need to address the mental health crisis in our schools and ensure their students lead healthy lives. We thank Senators Pan and Portantino for introducing this important piece of legislation, and we call on their colleagues in the State Assembly to pass SB 428 and help us expand access to mental health trainings in schools.”

[California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies](#) (CBHA) is a statewide association of county funded non-profit community agencies dedicated to the proposition that the people of California deserve a rational, comprehensive, community-based behavioral health system that is adequately funded to serve all those in need of services. We are their voice at the Capitol and with state agencies, and work to ensure that state and county programs support integrated services for children, youth, adults and the elderly which includes physical health, behavioral



health, housing, social services, education, substance abuse services and vocational rehabilitation.

Led by Lady Gaga and her mother Cynthia Germanotta, [Born This Way Foundation](#) was founded in 2012 to support the wellness of young people and empower them to create a kinder and braver world. To achieve these goals, the Foundation leverages evidence-based programming and authentic partnerships in order to provide young people with improved mental health resources and kinder communities - online and offline.

[Children Now](#) is a non-partisan, whole-child research, policy development and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting children's health and education in California. The organization also leads [The Children's Movement of California](#), a network of more than 3,000 direct service, parent, civil rights, faith-based and community groups dedicated to improving children's well-being.