



April 22, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1665 (Pacheco) — SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

Every day, California hospitals see firsthand the growing number of young people in mental health crisis. Since adolescents spend much of their time with peers at school and in extracurricular activities such as sports, it is critical that adults in those environments be prepared to support young people who are struggling.

That's why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1665 (Pacheco, D-Downey), which would ensure high school coaches have appropriate training to provide informed mental health support to student-athletes.

Today, 3 in 10 teenagers are facing “serious psychological distress” and a growing number of adolescents are being seen in hospital emergency departments due to suspected suicide attempts. And while sports provide an important and effective physical outlet for the more than half of adolescents who participate, many teens face pressure to perform at increasingly higher levels. Although high school coaches are required to complete training on concussions, cardiac arrest, and heat acclimatization, they are not currently required to receive training on students’ mental health.

AB 1665 would require high school coaches to complete mental health training, at their own expense. This bill would not impose major new requirements on the state. It would simply require schools to ensure coaches complete mental health training — training that two-thirds of coaches say they want to receive.

For these reasons, CHA requests your “YES” vote on AB 1665.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Barros", with a long, sweeping underline.

Leah Barros
Consulting Lobbyist, California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Blanca Pacheco
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Allegra Kim, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Joe Shinstock, Consultants, Assembly Republican Caucus