



March 10, 2026

The Honorable Christopher Ward
Chair, Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism
1020 N Street, Room 152
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1665 (Pacheco) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ward:

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, 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 approved by the California Department of Education — training that two-thirds of coaches say they want to receive. Since research shows students are often most comfortable speaking with people they know when they’re struggling, it is important to equip high school coaches with tools to support their student-athletes’ mental health.

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
Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism
Brian V. Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism
Rose Rastbaf, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus