



June 9, 2026

The Honorable Sasha Renee Perez
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2003 (Berman) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Perez:

Every day, California's hospitals treat patients experiencing suicidal thoughts or injuries from self-harm. In fact, self-harm is now the third-leading cause of injury-related emergency department visits. Given the growing number of individuals at risk of suicide, the California Hospital Association (CHA) supports efforts to improve safety measures and protect lives.

That's why CHA, on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 2003 (Berman, D-Palo Alto), which would create a sustainable, statewide suicide prevention infrastructure for California's K-12 schools.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for ages 10-25 in California, and overall suicide rates have increased by 8.3% over the past two decades. In response to this growing crisis, this bill would direct the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to develop a free, accessible, trauma-informed, and culturally and linguistically competent online training program for students ages 13 and older, as well as school staff and caregivers. AB 2003 would also require local educational agencies that conduct suicide-risk screenings to report standardized data to the California Department of Education.

AB 2003 would strengthen the investments California has made over the past several decades to reduce suicide and provide schools with critical support to reach at-risk students and their families.

For these reasons, **CHA requests your "YES" vote on AB 2003.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Barros", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leah Barros
Consulting Lobbyist, California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Marc Berman
The Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee
Therresa Austin., Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Amanda Richie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus