



California Association of School Counselors, The California Association of School Psychologists and the California Association of School Social Workers Respond to President Joe Biden's Remarks in the State of the Union

Sacramento, CA – On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, President Joe Biden delivered his first State of the Union Address drawing attention to the mental health crisis facing so many today. He indicated that Covid-19 has put a strain on the emotional and physical wellbeing of Americans of all ages. The President said, “...*let’s take on mental health. Especially among our children, whose lives and education have been turned upside down. And let’s get all Americans the mental health services they need. More people they can turn to for help, and full parity between physical and mental health care.*” – President Joe Biden, State of the Union Address

President Biden’s plan includes:

- addressing the severe shortage of mental health service providers including investing in recruiting a more diverse, and culturally competent workforce.
- Investing in school mental health professionals in both the FY 22 and 23 budgets.
- Expanding early childhood and school-based intervention services and supports.

The California Association of School Counselors along with our partners from the California Association of School Psychologists, and the California Association of School Social Workers have issued the following statements: “It is essential that California address the urgent crisis affecting our school-aged students and use this opportunity to increase its investments in schools with sustainable funding to provide for the mental and behavioral health needs of our children and youth”.

“**The California Association of School Counselors (CASC)** applauds President Biden and his Administration on the important investment that can be directly utilized in a public-school setting, the place most children and youth receive mental health support” said Josh Godinez, PPS, high school counselor and Chair of CASC.

The California Association of School Psychologists (CASP) commends and appreciates President Biden's acknowledgement of the dire need to hire and utilize school based mental health professionals, including school psychologists, to address youth mental and behavioral health," commented Dr. Jeannine Topalian, LEP, PPS, and President of CASP.

The California Association of School Social Workers (CASSW) appreciates President Biden and his Administration’s commitment to children’s mental health. All PPS professionals, including school social workers, are central to supporting student mental health. We ground our work in relationships, address the whole person, enhance school culture, and create a welcoming environment for *all* students” commented Paul Brazzel, LCSW, PPSC, President of CASSW.