Sample Support Letter – Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 179 (O’Donnell)

INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION’S LETTERHEAD

Date

The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair

Assembly Rules Committee

1021 O Street, Suite 8310

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACR 179 (O’Donnell): Student Mental Health Week – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Cooley,

[INSERT ORGANIZATION’S NAME] writes to express our strong support for [Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 179](about:blank), which will set aside the week of May 9-13, 2022, devoted to drawing attention to the important issue of children and adolescent mental health.

Children and youth mental health is a problem of epic proportions as indicated early this year in a [report](about:blank) issued by the U.S. Surgeon General. As the report indicates, schools are a critical setting for mental health prevention and intervention services. While California has recently enacted policies to address children and adolescent mental health, additional efforts are still needed. Even more so now, COVID-19 has worsened and already alarming trend amongst our youth. From March to October of 2020, CDC data indicates children’s visits to the emergency room for mental health conditions increased significantly. Adolescent suicide rates have increased. Youth depression is at an all-time high. Likewise, a child is more likely to receive counseling services on school campuses than in the community.

While ACR 179 serves to focus our attention during the second week of May on Student Mental Health, it can also be a part of an overall, yearlong strategy to focus the school community on the importance of social and emotional learning and activities that supports student connectedness to school. ACR XX sends a strong message about the need to reduce mental health stigma and identifying risk factors early. Additionally, ACR 179 encourages California schools to provide comprehensive strategic approaches to embedding mental health services on school campus, underscoring the magnitude of schools being a community of care where students feel recognized and valued.

[BRIEF SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATION & CONNECTION TO ISSUE]

For these reasons, [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] strongly supports ACR 179 and requests your

AYE vote when it is heard in the Assembly Education Committee.

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNEE’s NAME]

[INSERT SIGNEE’s POSITION]

Note: [California Legislation Submission Portal](about:blank)