

Submitter: Dr Andrea Bateman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure: SB551

Our young people are in an unprecedented mental health crisis. According to the CDC, nearly 60% of teen girls and 30% of teen boys reported persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness in 2021. Nearly 1 in 3 youth seriously considered attempting suicide. In my practice at a school-based health center at a local high school, my days are filled helping teen patients who are struggling with anxiety and depression. Many parents are unaware of how much their children are suffering, and many just don't think about the risk unsecured firearms and medications in their homes, their cars, and the places their children visit might pose to them. Let's do all we can to educate ourselves and our communities to provide the safest environments for our young people. Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Bateman, MD