

March 24, 2008

The Honorable Mary Hayashi  
California Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2188  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AB 1951: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Hayashi:

The California Association of School Psychologists (CASP) has reviewed your AB 1951 and has taken a support position on the bill. CASP is a statewide association that represents over 3,000 school psychologists working in California public, private, and charter schools. School psychologists are mental health professionals who have specialized training in both psychology and education. They use their training and skills to team with educators, parents, and other mental health professionals to ensure that every child overcomes barriers and learns in a safe, healthy and supportive environment.

AB 1951 would require Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEPs) to receive six hours of suicide prevention training as a condition of licensure. This would give LEPs, as well as Clinical Psychologists and Licensed Clinical Social Workers, more knowledge on how to treat suicidal patients. Under the bill, CASP would be authorized to provide suicide prevention training as part of our Certificate of Advanced Training and Specialization program.

CASP believes that this is a reasonable approach to the growing problem of suicide and we look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming year on this critical issue. If we can be of further assistance please contact our legislative advocate, Jeff Frost, at 447-8420.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Fisher  
CASP Executive Director

cc: Assembly Business and Professions Committee