

July 13, 2007

The Honorable Mark Ridley Thomas
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

SB 564: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Ridley Thomas:

The California Association of School Psychologist (CASP) has reviewed your SB 564 and has respectfully 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. We are mental health professionals who have specialized training in both psychology and education. We use our 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.

Your SB 564 would increase the funding for and scope of school health centers. The development of these centers would create the opportunity to provide vital mental and physical assessments and referrals to all students. This is especially needed for the 800,000 children in California without health insurance. CASP believes that SB 564 is a significant step in toward providing a safety net for all students.

CASP believes that the school environment provides an ideal opportunity to intervene and treat mental illness. We strongly support efforts, such as this that promote the physical and mental health of children. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this critical issue. If we can be of further assistance please contact us at 916/444-1595.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Fisher
CASP Executive Director