



June 21, 2017

The Honorable Ed Hernandez
Chair, Senate Health Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1315 (Mullin): Mental health: early psychosis detection and intervention – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hernandez,

The Jed Foundation (JED) is pleased to SUPPORT AB 1315 by Assembly member Kevin Mullin. AB 1315 provides the opportunity to expand evidenced-based early psychosis detection and intervention services and supports to transition-aged youth and young adults who are at-risk of, or experiencing, psychotic symptoms or have other serious mood disorders.

Assembly member Mullin's AB 1315 would accomplish this by creating a public-private partnership to leverage competitive funding for counties. Counties would then direct the new funding to develop innovative approaches and evaluation tools and ultimately create new local capacity for early detection and treatment of youth early psychosis.

Under AB 1315, counties that choose to participate must meet specified requirements for evidence-based services and supports and provide a contribution of local funds, such as Mental Health Services Act moneys. Private donations would provide the critical incentive for local communities to become engaged and focus on this substantive gap in services that, if untreated, can initiate a trajectory of accumulating disability in adulthood.

AB 1315 provides for an expedited competitive selection process to be administered by the Commission, under the leadership of the Advisory Committee. This entire process would be structured and awarded through the collaboration of these two entities. The intent is to provide timely expertise, a defined public administrative process, and the ability to create new programs or to expand and improve existing ones at the local level.

PROTECTING EMOTIONAL HEALTH FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Nearly 100,000 adolescents and young adults experience first-episode psychosis each year. California needs to meet this challenge with intensive early psychosis and detection programs at the local level. JED is a non-profit dedicated to mental health promotion and suicide prevention using a community health model. Our work focuses on early identification and intervention with those at risk for mental illness. As such this legislation is particularly resonant with our work. This is why JED is pleased and honored to enthusiastically support AB 1315, and we respectfully ask for your "Aye" vote. Should you have any questions about our support, please don't hesitate to contact me at 212-647-7544 or vschwartz@jedfoundation.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Schwartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Victor Schwartz MD
Chief Medical Officer, The Jed Foundation

cc: The Honorable Kevin Mullin, Speaker pro Tempore of the Assembly
Honorable Members, Senate Health Committee
Reyes Diaz, Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Adrienne Shilton, Steinberg Institute