

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(Fax: 916-558-3160)

Re: SB 543 (Leno) – Veto

Dear Gov. Schwarzenegger:

I am writing in opposition to SB 543 by Sen. Mark Leno. This bill undermines parental authority by allowing a minor as young as 12 to seek mental health treatment without the consent of his or her parents. The only requirements that must be met before circumventing parental involvement in the lives of vulnerable young teens and pre-teens are having a “professional person” (who could simply be a social worker) indicate that the minor is “mature enough” to participate and that involving his or her parents would be “inappropriate.”

Protecting our young people is important to me. Unless parents have been accused of abuse or present a true threat to the health and safety of a minor, they must be contacted prior to professional treatment, whether that care is for physical or emotional conditions. Please stand for parental rights and veto SB 543 immediately!

Sincerely,