



June 3, 2011

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
State Capitol, Room 2176  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 989 (Mitchell) Mental health: children's services  
As Amended May 27, 2011 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Mitchell:

On behalf of the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), which represents the directors of public mental health in California counties, I am writing to notify you that we have changed our position on AB 989 to "Support" and to thank you for working with us to develop amendments that address our concerns..

As amended on May 27, 2011, AB 989 clarifies that when counties are developing their Mental Health Services Act-funded programs for transition age youth, they take into account the needs of transition age youth who are foster youth. We are glad that the new version of AB 989 is both an accurate reflection of your legislative intent, as well as maintains each community's ability to establish Mental Health Services Act programs that address unique local priorities.

Counties are committed to helping address the mental health needs of foster youth, and appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Barlow  
Associate Director, Legislation and Public Policy

Cc: Kelly Brooks, California State Association of Counties  
Mickey Richie, Regional Council of Rural Counties