

California Legislature

March 9, 2020

Assemblymember Shirley Weber, Chair
Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 3123
Sacramento, CA 95814

We respectfully request Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety to hear a proposal for a one-time appropriation of \$5,000,000 from the general fund to the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide grants to California's 84 Rape Crisis Centers (RCC). This dedicated funding would be used to fulfill the ongoing mission of RCCs, to support sexual assault victims during their time of crisis as well as provide preventative services to their communities.

California's crime rate has been on the decline in recent months, however rape and sexual assaults have not followed suit. Over the past five years, rape and sexual assaults have steadily increased, as have domestic violence related calls for assistance. While funding was increased in the 2018-19 Budget year, the Governor's proposed budget has returned to historical norm of \$45,000 to support one rape crisis center located in Alameda County. The remaining 83 centers receive no general fund support.

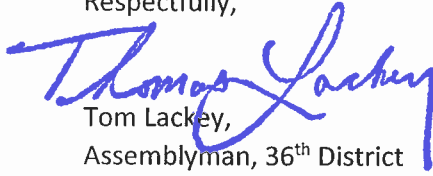
California Penal Code 680.2 requires law enforcement to provide a victim of sexual assault the phone number or website of a RCC and sexual assault counselor, and requires a sexual assault counselor to be available 24 hours a day. In addition, law enforcement must inform a local RCC if a sexual assault victim is transported to the hospital, and the victim has the right to request a sexual assault counselor to be present for an initial medical evaluation.

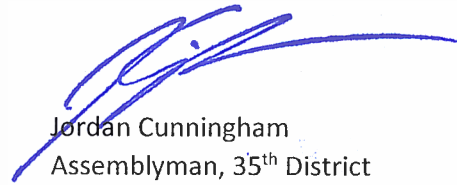
Currently, RCCs are primarily funded by federal funds, with a small portion derived from California's penalty assessments. While California requires a lot from these centers, the administration has habitually neglected them in the annual budget progress. Without dedicated state dollars to these crisis centers, these requirements constitute a significant and unfunded state mandate.

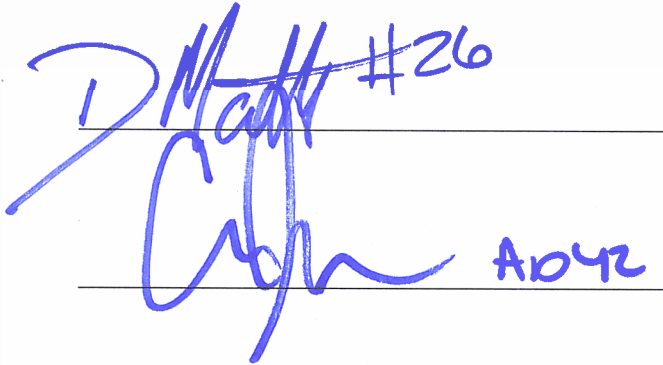
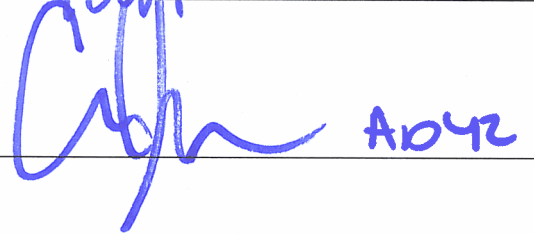
It is for these reasons that I respectfully request Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety allow this proposal to be presented at the Cal OES hearing on Monday, March 23rd for the appropriation of \$5,000,000 to fund California's 84 Rape Crisis Centers and provide much-needed support to California's victims of sexual assault and rape.

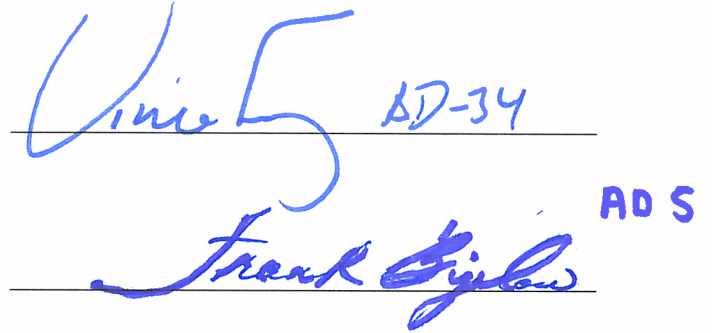
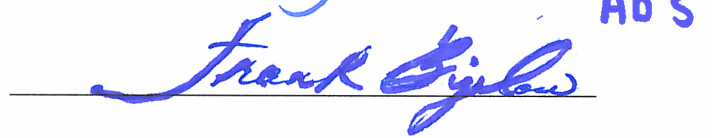
Should you have any questions, please contact Mark Isidro, Legislative Director – Assemblyman Tom Lackey, or Gianna Rogers, Legislative Assistant – Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham, at Mark.Isidro@asm.ca.gov and Gianna.Rogers@asm.ca.gov, respectively.

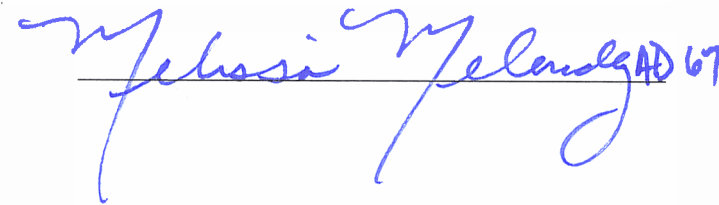
Respectfully,


Tom Lackey,
Assemblyman, 36th District


Jordan Cunningham
Assemblyman, 35th District


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cc: Budget Chair Philip Ting
Assemblymember Jay Obernolte, Budget Vice Chair
Assemblymember William Brough
Assemblymember Vince Fong
Assemblymember James Gallagher
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Assemblymember Jim Patterson
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