

Resolution Calling for the Preservation of Access to Student Mental Health Services

Whereas Santa Clara County has a history youth suicide and mental illness at considerably higher rates than the rest of the country. Further acknowledging that many of the factors that contribute to severe mental health issues begin in the home and disproportionately affect students of color, unstably housed and economically insecure students, and LGBTQ+ students;

Whereas social distancing and shelter-in-place have increased the need for student mental health services as overall mental health has deteriorated and incidences of domestic disputes and violence have increased while schools transitioning to distance learning significantly increased the difficulty faced by students in accessing school-based mental health services;

Whereas social distancing and shelter-in-place has exacerbated the need for mental health services in light of overall mental health deteriorating and a rise of domestic disputes and violence. Distance learning has also increased the difficulty faced by students in accessing school-based mental health services;

Whereas the economic implications of the Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in decreased revenue for school districts and nonprofit mental health service providers and potential budget shortfalls place the availability of vital mental health resources at risk;

Therefore be it resolved that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls upon school districts and third party mental health service providers working with school districts in the county to maintain access to mental health services including counseling and referrals to local providers. Both previously provided and newly developed services shall be made available digitally for the duration of the period that schools are not open in-person. The availability and accessibility of these services must be altered to reflect the severe increase their necessity;

Be it further resolved that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls upon all school districts in the county to maintain funding and resources allocated to student mental health services in a manner that keeps pace with their increasing need when considering budget rearrangements due to the economic and fiscal effects of Covid-19.

Submitted by the Santa Clara County High School Democrats of America

Adopted by Youth Delegates to the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee "Youth Takeover" meeting, August 6, 2020

Adoption affirmed by Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee, August 6, 2020