

March 10, 2026

Mark González

1021 O Street, Suite 6150

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to AB 1540

Dear Assembly Member González:

On behalf of tens of thousands of constituents, allied organizations, and more than 2,000 churches across California, the California Family Council strongly opposes AB 1540.

AB 1540 appropriates \$5 million to route LGBTQ+ identified youth who call the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline to organizations pre-selected for their ideological alignment with affirming LGBTQ+ identities. The 988 Lifeline was designed as a universal, clinically neutral crisis intervention resource. Embedding ideological gatekeeping into a public mental health infrastructure fundamentally compromises the integrity of that system and transforms a crisis service into an advocacy pipeline, funded entirely by taxpayers.

Crisis counseling best practices, as outlined by SAMHSA and the Joint Commission, prioritize individualized, evidence-based care. AB 1540 bypasses this standard by mandating identity-based routing without regard to a caller's actual clinical presentation, family circumstances, or preferences. A young person in an acute crisis deserves a trained counselor focused entirely on their safety, not a referral filtered through a political and ideological lens. No other demographic group's crisis calls are rerouted to advocacy organizations based on identity. This disparate treatment is both clinically unsound and legally inconsistent.

AB 1540 facilitates connecting these children to outside organizations without parental knowledge or consent. Parents retain a constitutionally recognized interest in the care, custody, and upbringing of their children, affirmed by the Supreme Court in *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000), and *Parham v. J.R.*, 442 U.S. 584 (1979). A state-funded program that systematically routes minors to identity-affirming advocacy groups, outside the family structure, raises serious constitutional concerns regarding parental rights and due process.

Several states that have pursued identity-based crisis intervention funding have faced subsequent litigation, public backlash, and documented cases where minors were coached away from family reconciliation and toward irreversible medical interventions. California should learn from these experiences rather than replicate them at taxpayer expense. Genuine care for LGBTQ+-identified youth in crisis requires clinical excellence, family engagement, and individualized attention, not a predetermined ideological pathway.

For these reasons, California Family Council respectfully opposes AB 1540. We urge you to reconsider this measure and work toward crisis intervention solutions grounded in sound clinical evidence, constitutional respect for parental authority, and genuine care for the well-being of California's youth.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Burt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Burt

Vice President

California Family Council