

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 2198

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

ASSEMBLY BILL 2198: DEFINED

**Certain mental health professionals affected by legislation:
psychologists, licensed marriage and family therapist,
clinical social workers, and others**

**A requirement to have training in suicide assessment,
treatment, and management.**

**A governing body would evaluate the effectiveness of this
training.**

THE NEED

More than half of Californians (51.2%) have stated their lives have been affected by a suicide.

THE ISSUE

Too many Californians lose their lives to suicide and in increasing numbers

Numerous Californians get medical treatment for non-fatal injuries

A number of individuals dying by suicide were in mental health treatment (about 40%)

Increasingly adult-aged individuals are taking their lives and there are no programs for this age group.

CURRENT SITUATION

Suicide prevention training is being provided to students, school personal, law enforcement, and others to refer at-risk individuals.

Mental health professionals must be certified to refer an individual for involuntary detention assessment

There is no gauge on if the mental health practitioner being referred to is sufficiently trained.

THE SOLUTION

Make sure mental health professionals have suicide assessment, treatment, and management training

Provide consumers/patients with some indication a mental health professional is sufficient trained

REQUEST FOR TRAINING

National, State of California, and regional suicide prevention plans have identify this need

An American Association of Suicidology Task Force Unabridged Report emphasizes this need

TRAININGS

Several nationally identified best-practice training courses exist:

- **Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk: Core Competencies for Mental Health Professionals**
 - Recognizing and Responding to Suicide Risk: Essential Skills for Clinicians (RRSR)
 - Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Depression and Suicidality
 - Many other trainings

OPPOSITION

Significant by some mental health professional associations

Do not want a requirement

Claim not necessary (they already have this training)

PRECEDENTS

Similar laws:

- Adopted by two states:
 - Washington
 - Kentucky
- Under consideration by two other states:
 - Tennessee
 - Pennsylvania

SUPPORTED FROM

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Greater Bay Area Chapter

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – National Chapter

Asian Americans for Community Involvement (San Jose CA)

Association of California's Healthcare Districts

California Catholic Conference, Inc.

California Mental Health Directors' Association

Caltrain

SUPPORTED FROM

Community Solutions (Morgan Hill CA)

El Camino Hospital (Mountain View, CA)

Didi Hirsch Crisis Center (Los Angeles)

NAMI- California

NAMI - Santa Clara County

Numerous individuals, including some prior attempters