

Legislation & Public Policy Digest

GFWC California Federation of Women's Clubs
A Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

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Invite me to speak at your meeting!

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The General Federation and California Federation of Women's Clubs have long been concerned with the issue of mental health and both have adopted Resolutions dealing with society's need to adequately address the mental health issues of its citizens. Federation recognizes that the well-being of human beings relies just as much on mental health as physical health and has urged its members to persuade legislators to address both of these needs in order that society as a whole may benefit.

The CFWC Legislation & Public Policy Committee urges members to work towards the passage of two bills currently pending in the California Legislature that address the mental health needs of its citizens.

AB 89 Levine Psychologists: suicide prevention training would require all psychologists to receive a one-time minimum of 6 hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention to obtain or renew their license beginning January 1, 2020. It is frightening to realize that currently licensed psychologists treating patients may lack even 6 hours of training or experience in recognizing and helping patients who are suicidal. The Committee believed that by ensuring mental health care providers

receive better training in issues they are likely to address in treating patients those who do seek mental health care can be better treated and hopefully the number of suicides can be reduced and patients can better get the help they need in dealing with their mental health issues. Currently, AB 89 is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 191 Beal Pupil health: mental health and substance use disorder services would allow schools to work with county mental health providers to enter an agreement which could provide for the delivery of campus-based mental health and substance use disorder services and on-campus support for students with an individualized education program. By allowing mental health issues to be treated as part of a child's special education needs, society can help alleviate needless suffering and untold heartache for families both directly and indirectly. SB 191 is currently in the Senate Health Committee.

Both AB 89 and SB 191 further GFWC Resolutions, specifically GFWC 013-300 Mental Health Parity; GFWC 013-360 Persons with Disabilities; GFWC 013-510 Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation.

Find Your Officials

Federal
Legislators:

<https://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>

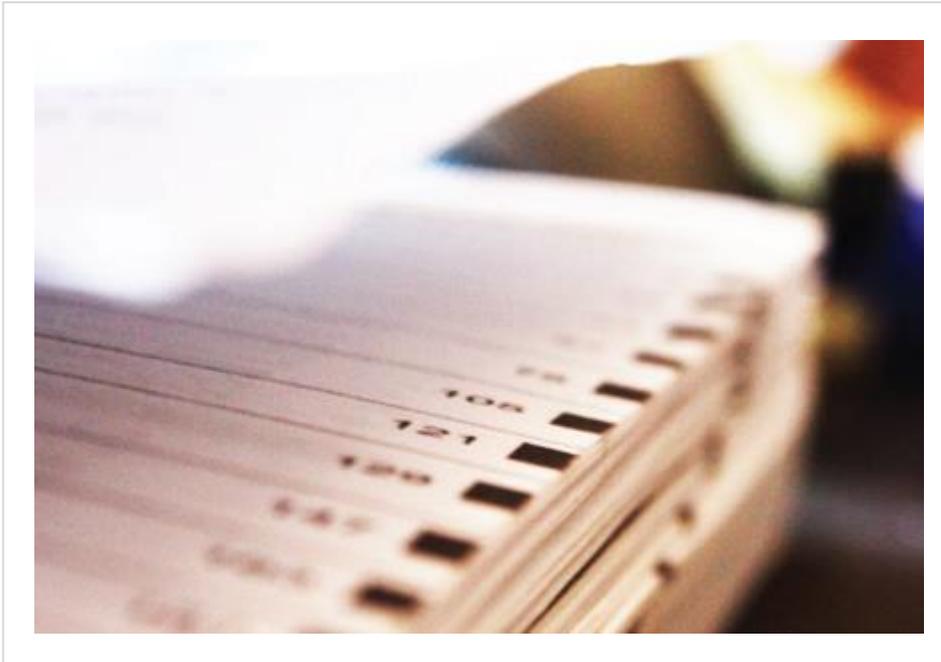
State
Representatives:
<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

GFWC Legislative
Action Center
<http://capwiz.com/gfwc/home/>

By working to address the mental health needs of our society and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness by placing it at parity with physical illness, Federation is helping to build a better future for all our citizens.

No one knows who will or will not be touched by mental health care

concerns, but due to the stigma long associated with mental health, those in need of professional help often fail to seek it or do not obtain the full spectrum of health they need to address their issues which not only lends to needless suffering but so many of the horrific stories we hear about in the news.

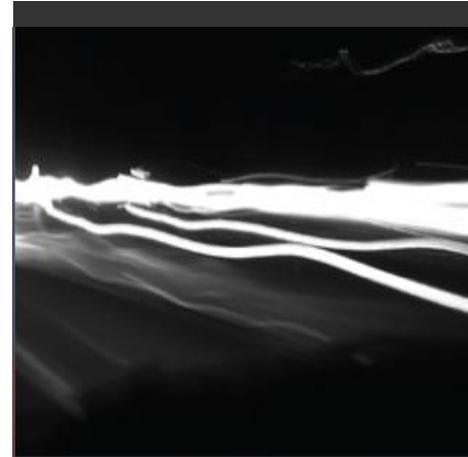


When mental health issues are given the same care as physical health concerns,, all of society benefits.

As we prepare ourselves to attend the upcoming District, State and National Conventions, let us all be sure to be mindful of the proposed Resolutions with which we will be presented. Our Resolutions are the statement of what we as an organization seek to achieve and guide us in our legislative efforts

both at the State and National levels. Our Resolutions encompass the future we would like to build and work towards achieving.

Hopefully, your club will be willing to work with CFWC to help pass these laws to address the mental health needs of its citizens that are not adequately being met.



Sign up for the GFWC Legislative Action Center

1. Go to www.GFWC.org.
2. Click on 'What We Do'.
3. Click on 'Public Policy'.
4. Scroll down the page to the words 'Legislative Action Center' in the picture of the dome and click on the picture.
5. On the right side scroll down to 'Subscribe to our mailing list' and click on the word 'GO' in the blue square.
6. Type in the requested information and click on the word REGISTER in the blue square.

You are all set. Check on the current issues and send your opinions directly to your own legislators.



Champion Legislation & Public Policy Moment

In 2016, the California Federation of Women's Clubs worked to pass **AB 59 Waldaron Mental health services: assisted outpatient treatment** which provides funding for assisted outpatient follow up when appropriate for individuals released from mental hospitals until 2022.