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## **CA Alliance of Child and Family Services Responds to Governor's Plan to Alter the Mental Health Services Act**

**Sacramento, CA** – Delivering mental health services to help children succeed in school and thrive as they develop was a central argument that the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) authors made to voters in 2004. Two decades later, the stress and trauma our children are facing and the need for these resources promised to serve them is greater than ever. MHSA's Prevention and Early Intervention funds truly life-saving services that otherwise wouldn't exist, from interventions that prevent childhood trauma and child welfare system involvement to peer support strategies for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth.

As community-based organizations providing services to vulnerable foster youth, LGBTQ+ youth and communities of color who face a higher prevalence of homelessness, we support efforts to reduce the trauma and suffering created by a housing affordability crisis that has been decades in the making. We look forward to working with the Administration and Legislature to ensure that the well-intended efforts to reduce homelessness for adults at risk do not result in more harm to young people and their families and fewer resources needed to ensure today's youth do not become tomorrow's unsheltered and unserved adults.

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*The California Alliance: The collective voice for organizations that serve children, youth, and families. For those dedicated to improving the lives of these at-risk populations, the California Alliance stands apart as the champion and leading voice for organizations that advocate for children, youth, and families and for advancing policy and services on their behalf.*

