



March 23, 2022

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman  
California State Senate  
1021 O St., Ste. 8530  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 877 (Eggman) CA Victim Compensation Board: Mental Health Services Reimbursement — SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Eggman,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write you in support of your SB 877, which would ensure that victims of crime in California can receive reimbursed mental health care services in the state in which they live.

The California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) is dedicated to assisting violent crime victims. Among other responsibilities, board members make decisions on appeals for victim compensation through the Victims Compensation Program. The program is a state fund largely funded by restitution fines (fines that are “debt to society” paid for by individuals guilty of a crime). Reimbursements from the program cover the medical costs for physical injuries and mental health care expenditures for eligible victims, the immediate family of victims, and derivative victims (such as non-immediate family living in the same home as the victim).

Current law requires that a victim must obtain mental health treatment from a practitioner licensed and in California. This can impede victims’ access to care if they live outside of California, or moved outside of California for safety concerns or otherwise, but experienced the crime in California.

SB 877 will allow victims to receive reimbursed care in the state in which the victim lives. This ensures that individuals who are victims of crime in California may receive the mental health care they need.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support SB 877 and would like to thank you for your authorship of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul Yoder  
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair & Members, Senate Appropriations Committee