



March 9th, 2023

The Honorable Richard D. Roth
Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee
1021 O St. Room 3320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regarding Senate Bill 372 (Menjivar): The Respect for Names Act
Position: SPONSOR

Dear Senator Roth,

The signatories of this letter are pleased to co-sponsor SB 372 (Menjivar) that protects the privacy of individuals that have legally changed their name at the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

When a licensed professional legally changed their name, their original, or deadname, appears on the DCA's Breeze online license verification system. This practice negatively impacts all licensees under the DCA who are identified by their previous name, when they prefer their legal name to be publicly shared.

By limiting what is shared on the website, the safety and privacy of transitioned persons and others who have changed licensed under DCA is protected. Victims of domestic violence that have legally changed their name may wish for their information to be kept confidential.

Individuals that have transitioned may be harassed or discriminated against when their transition is shared on the Breeze system.

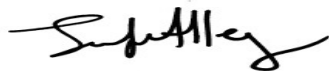
Safeguards for consumers to ensure that a complaint can be filed under either name are included in the bill. If a disciplinary action was taken under the deadname, that information would remain linked to the license number and available for the public to review. Additionally, if a consumer would like to re-engage with a licensee, that would be possible as well.

This bill is similar to an existing process at the California State Bar.

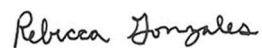
This proposal is co-sponsored by

For these reasons, the CA Psychological Association, CA Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, CA State Association of Psychiatrists, National Association of Social Workers – CA Chapter, CA Psychiatric Alliance, CA Association of Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, CA Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies, and the CA Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies are proud to co-sponsor SB 372. We thank the committee for the consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Alley
Director of Government Affairs
CA Psychological Association




Rebecca (Becca) Gonzales
Director of Government Relations and Political Affairs
National Association of Social Workers – CA Chapter



Chad Costello
Executive Director
CA Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies



Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate
CA State Association of Psychiatrists



Randal Hagar
Legislative Advocate
Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of California



Le Ondra Clark Harvey
Chief Executive Officer
CA Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies



Cathy Atkins, JD
Deputy Executive Director
CA Psychological Association



G. V. Ayers
Lobbyist
CA Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors