



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

THE ISSUE: AB 2701 Victims of Violent Crimes: trauma recovery centers (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park)
This bill would require the Victims Compensation Board to administer a program to evaluate applications and award grants to school-based trauma recovery centers. **(SUPPORT)**

“In your school you take part in various activities that habituate you not to shut yourselves in on yourselves or in your small world, but to be open to others, especially to the poorest and neediest, to work to improve the world in which we live. Be men and women with others and for others, real champions in the service of others.”

- Pope Francis

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) at San Francisco General Hospital, University of California San Francisco, is an award-winning, nationally recognized program created in 2001. The TRC programs addresses the multiple barriers victims face recovering from crime. Trauma creates a negative neurobiological response in a child or young person’s brain. Children and youth who face chronic toxic stress and exposure to traumatic events and circumstances are constantly in “fight, flight or freeze” mode.

AB 2701 would require the Victims Compensation Board to award a grant to a school-based trauma recovery center that meets the criteria of providing a whole school, systematic approach to trauma and uses certain core elements. A school-based trauma center would provide outreach and services to students who typically are unable to access traditional services.

Children and youth in high-poverty neighborhoods are overwhelmingly concentrated in schools that fail to meet the educational and mental health needs of trauma-impacted students and helps close the academic achievement gap. Trauma can reduce the ability to focus, organize and process information. It can also cause lower academic achievement, decreased reading ability and increased school absences.

CHURCH TEACHING

“With the Cross, Jesus unites himself to the silence of the victims of violence, those who can no longer cry out, especially the innocent and the defenseless; with the Cross, he is united to families in trouble, and those who mourn the tragic loss of their children.” -- Pope Francis

TALKING POINTS

- ▶ Unaddressed trauma can place the children and youth who are most at risk on a pathway to criminal activity in their adult years.
- ▶ Without timely holistic support, victims often suffer long-term mental health challenges.
- ▶ Trauma is a public health issue that should not be criminalized through removal, suspension, or expulsion; rather, it should be effectively addresses at the earliest possible stage in order to ensure a greater likelihood of educational success.
- ▶ Children and youth who are low-income, minorities and immigrants are disproportionately more likely to be exposed to community violence or other traumatic circumstances.