

RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

In Opposition to AB 727 (Amendments to California Education Code § 215.5 Regarding Student Identification Card Hotline Requirements)

September 3, 2025

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has passed amendments to Education Code Section 215.5 that mandate the inclusion of multiple hotline numbers, including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and The Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline, on student identification cards for pupils in grades 7–12 and for institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, the legislation removes local discretion by requiring that specific nonprofit organizations and hotline services, such as The Trevor Project, be named on all student identification cards, thereby privileging one outside entity over other potential local or community-based resources; and

WHEREAS, while we strongly support the expansion of mental health services to all students, including those who identify as LGBTQ+, this bill, in its current form, introduces significant safety concerns by implicitly endorsing online platforms like TREVORspace without addressing critical safeguards; and

WHEREAS, we are concerned about the potential liability of referring students to a platform (TREVORspace) that operates with the same architecture as many commercial youth social media networks, complete with public posts, open commenting, and default-enabled direct messaging. These functions, combined with no real age verification, create an environment that is vulnerable to exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the layering of state-mandated resources onto student ID cards does not address the root causes of bullying, discrimination, and mental health struggles among LGBTQ+ and other vulnerable students, and may create confusion for students about which hotline or resource is most appropriate in moments of crisis; and

WHEREAS, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools already have the authority and flexibility to provide mental health and crisis hotline resources to students in ways that are locally responsive and culturally relevant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Orange County Board of Education formally opposes the amendments to California Education Code Section 215.5 that require the printing of specific hotline numbers, including The Trevor Project hotline, on all student identification cards, on the grounds that such mandates limit local control, impose unnecessary financial and administrative burdens, and privilege specific nonprofit organizations over local solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Orange County Board of Education urges the Legislature and the Governor of California to reconsider these mandates and instead support policies that increase funding for direct student services, counseling staff, and locally determined interventions that more effectively address the diverse mental health needs of California's students.


ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of September, 2025, at a regular meeting of the Orange County Board of Education.

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0
Absent: 0
Abstained: 0

State of California)
) ss.
County of Orange)

I, Mari Barke, President of the Orange County Board of Education, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 3rd day of September, 2025, and passed by 5-0 vote of said Board members present.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 3rd day of September, 2025.



Mari Barke, Board President
Orange County Board of Education



Tim Shaw, Board Vice President
Orange County Board of Education