



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman
1021 O Street, Suite 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Senate Bill 877
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Eggman:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Senate Bill 877 (Eggman).

SB 877 would authorize the CA Victim Compensation Board to reimburse a crime victim for psychiatric or mental health counseling services provided by an out-of-state provider who operates in the state in which the crime victim lives. Under existing law, reimbursement is allowed when a crime victim receives mental health services from a CA-licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, mental health counselor, or someone supervised by these professionals.

Ideally, CA-licensed mental health providers would be allowed to continue treating their patients even after those individuals move out of state. Telehealth is available and should be available in these circumstances. However, that is not authorized under existing law short of forcing the mental health providers to become licensed in those states as well, which is a burden on the mental health professionals. As a result, crime victims who move away from CA, sometimes for their own safety, and who can't afford mental health treatment related to the criminal offense, will have to forego that important treatment if they can't be reimbursed.

By allowing crime survivors to receive reimbursed care in the state in which they live, SB 877 will ensure that individuals who were victims of violent crime in California may receive the necessary mental health care they need no matter where they live.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tamar Tokat in our Legislative Office at 916-442-0668.

Very Truly Yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney