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September 19, 2019

The Honorable Grace L. Napolitano
United States House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 1109 – Mental Health Services for Students Act (Napolitano)
Position: Support

Dear Representative Napolitano:

On behalf of Pacific Clinics, I am writing in support of H.R. 1109, the Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2019 which would provide \$200 million in federal assistance to strengthen school-based mental health services for students.

As a leading nonprofit mental health provider serving over 20,000 individuals of all ages, Pacific Clinics recognizes the importance of supporting children and transitional-age youth. We partner with local schools to offer evidence-based treatment that is linguistically and culturally appropriate. In addition, we operate sites and conduct outreach to provide mental health counseling, mentorship and case management among other services.

The Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2019 will help improve access to services by partnering schools with community-based mental health providers. Research indicates that increased access to mental health services in schools can improve the physical and psychological safety of students as well as academic performance.

Pacific Clinics is pleased to offer support of this legislation and commends your leadership on this important issue. Please feel free to contact either myself or Myeisha Peguero Gamiño, Vice President of Public Affairs and Advocacy, with questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

James J. Balla, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer

JJB:mpg

cc: Myeisha Peguero Gamino, Vice President of Public Affairs and Advocacy
Luis Garcia, PsyD, Vice President of Quality Care, Cultural Diversity and Governmental & Community Relations