



March 21, 2019

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

RE: H.R. 1109 - Mental Health Services for Students Act (Napolitano) - SUPPORT

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano,

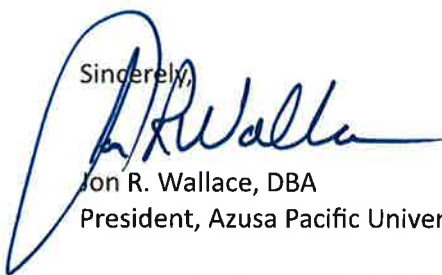
Azusa Pacific University (APU), with our nearly 10,000 students, recognizes the critical need for mental health services for students of all ages. Students who choose APU come from all walks of life and backgrounds, many in need of mental health services and counseling that the university provides. We support individuals with mental illness both on our campus and in our regional center communities. In fact, our own Community Counseling Center recently celebrated 30 years of providing services to our neighbors and local school-aged children.

In this spirit, we strongly support the Mental Health Services for Students Act. This legislation would ensure many more individuals receive access to specialized mental health services during their most formative years. If passed, this bill would enable local mental health professionals to establish comprehensive onsite mental health services for students to succeed nationwide.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 75 percent of children with emotional and behavioral disorders do not receive specialty mental health services, despite the ability to diagnose these disorders as early as kindergarten. Modeled after a successful pilot program started in 2001 in Los Angeles County, this legislation would provide a total of \$200 million in grant funding for schools to provide onsite, culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services for students.

The Mental Health Services for Students Act will address a critical need in our nation and ensure healthier long-term outcomes for our young people. On behalf of Azusa Pacific University, thank you for introducing this legislation, and please let us know how we can serve as a resource going forward.

Sincerely,


Jon R. Wallace, DBA
President, Azusa Pacific University

cc: The Honorable Judy Chu
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