To the Members of the California State Assembly:

Assembly Bill 174 aims to establish a pilot program in Alameda County, using non-state funds to provide school-based mental health services for students impacted by trauma.

I support the efforts of the bill but am returning it without my signature, as Alameda County can establish such a program without state intervention and may even be able to use Mental Health Services Act funding to do so.

Waiting for the state to act may cause unnecessary delays in delivering valuable mental health services to students. All counties—not just Alameda—should explore potential funding options, including Mental Health Services Act funds, to tailor programs that best meet local needs.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Edmund G. Brown Jr.