



# Alameda County Office of Education

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March 19, 2002

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl  
State Capitol, Room 4032  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Kuehl:

I am writing on behalf of the Alameda County Office of Education to voice our support of Senate Bill 1505 (Kuehl), sponsored by the California Women's Law Center. SB 1505 will require that Child Protective Service (CPS) workers are trained on the indicators and dynamics of teen dating violence.

Dating violence against young women occurs at staggering rates. Women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest per capita rates of domestic violence. Approximately 33 percent of teenagers will experience some degree of dating violence. And almost 80 percent of teenage girls who are victims of dating violence remain in an intimate relationship with their abusers. Finally, 30 percent of all teenage girls who are murdered are killed by a boyfriend or former boyfriend.

It is imperative that as we deal with these shocking statistics that we remember that support services and training opportunities be available to the male perpetrators as well as female victims.

Because abuse toward minors is reported to Child Protective Services, it is crucial that CPS workers are trained on how to recognize dating violence. Currently, there is no guarantee that CPS workers screen for or recognize teen dating violence. IF they know how to recognize dating violence immediately upon reviewing cases, CPS workers will be better prepared to properly refer cases to appropriate outside agencies.

Welfare and Institutions Code §16206 requires that Child Protective Services workers (CPS) be trained on the effects of domestic violence upon children and families. The statute should be amended to include teen dating violence as part of the training requirements.

For these reasons, in an effort to further ensure the safety of our children, we support SB 1505.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jordan  
Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

SJ/scm

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