YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
Use Your Voice

June 16th, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 82 (Ward) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Arreguín,

On behalf of **Youth Leadership Institute**, I am writing in strong support of AB 82 by Assemblymember Chris Ward, which will further protect the privacy of sensitive health data and expand existing protections to uphold the safety of those accessing and providing legally protected health services in California.

yli partners with thousands of youth across the state, many of whom are queer and trans. Many of these young people already struggle to get the health care they need and deserve to thrive. We are staunch advocates of policies that protect access to health care as well as their information.

Over the past several years, we have witnessed growing national attacks on LGBTQ+ people—especially transgender people—with over 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced across the country this year alone. Among these attacks, far-right lawmakers and extremist groups are targeting access to healthcare for transgender people and seeking to prevent them accessing medically necessary care. At the federal level, the Trump administration has issued multiple Executive Orders to prevent transgender young people from accessing basic healthcare and even criminalize providers who offer this care.

California's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)—also known as the Controlled Substance Utilization and Evaluation System (CURES)—contains sensitive prescription data on Schedule II, Schedule III, Schedule IV, and Schedule V controlled substances. Existing law provides the authority for CURES data sharing between authorized law enforcement entities and law enforcement in other states, which presents significant privacy and safety issues for both healthcare providers and patients.

Because testosterone is a controlled substance—and commonly prescribed for gender-affirming care—there are growing concerns that hostile out-of-state actors could use CURES data to identify transgender patients and their healthcare providers. Additionally, some states hostile to reproductive healthcare are beginning to use PDMP data to track mifepristone prescriptions, thus allowing these states to monitor drugs used for abortion care.

California protects individuals' rights to access essential healthcare and provides exhaustive protections for patients, their families, and health professionals against retaliation by hostile out-of-state actors. However, in the face of growing threats to bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom, these protections must be enhanced to further safeguard the privacy of sensitive health data and protect the safety and wellbeing of patients, their families, and healthcare providers who offer these essential services.

AB 82 protects the privacy of sensitive health data and enhances the safety and wellbeing of patients, their families, and healthcare providers by prohibiting the reporting of testosterone and mifepristone to the CURES database. The bill also extends California's landmark Safe at Home Program to include gender-affirming care providers, ensuring that people who provide or are affiliated with gender-affirming care facilities can keep their personal information confidential. Finally, the bill expands existing protections against doxing to include patients and providers of gender-affirming care.

AB 82 will help to ensure that individuals accessing legal health services in California have their health data protected, while also ensuring patients, their families, and healthcare providers are afforded existing protections to ensure their utmost safety. For these reasons, **Youth Leadership Institute** is proud to support AB 82.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA BARAHONA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Youth Leadership Institute

cc: The Honorable Chris Ward, Author
The Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Public Safety