



### ISSUE

---

California is drastically behind when it comes to assigning public funding to effective evidence-based solutions to address violence. Additionally, the funds that do exist along with the current policies respond to violence primarily through the criminal legal and child welfare systems in a reactionary fashion, rather than a preventative one.

Violence occurs in relationships, homes, schools, communities, and throughout places where people are confined. These different environments and forms -- from state violence to interpersonal violence require separate, but coordinated, intersectional strategies to address the factors that contribute to violence at every stage of life. California policymaking and funding have ignored the inter-related nature of different forms of violence, the factors which cause violence, the nuanced environments in which it occurs, and the strategies necessary to promote healing. Because of this, the programs that do exist are woefully inadequate, underfunded, and limited to suppression and intervention at best. Stopping the cycle of violence requires a prevention-oriented approach, interconnected, and coordinated strategies and funding commiserate with the need and size of the people and places that need these supports.

Rooting violence prevention programming in a trauma-informed, culturally-based, community centered, and social determinants of health framework that acknowledges generational trauma, the legacy of sexism, racism, and colonialism is the most effective way to reduce and end violence and promote peace, healing, and safety.

This office seeks to advance a bold paradigm shift in addressing violence, not by suppression, but instead by emphasizing asset-based empowerment approaches to peacemaking, restorative justice, healing, and safety. In this frame, the absence of violence is insufficient, and the office must seek to outline a vision for healing, justice, safety, and peace for communities throughout the state. Utilizing the research and evaluation science from the fields of human and youth development,

public health, and community building, this office will advance community prevention and intervention strategies that heal and restore people and ensure all communities are full of the opportunities necessary for their residents to thrive and be well.

### BILL SUMMARY

---

California needs an Office of Healthy and Safe Communities (OHSC) to consolidate and coordinate programming to end cycles of violence and invest in prevention, healing, and community-driven solutions. Inspired by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-02-19 which appoints a Surgeon General to advise the Governor on policy to address the root causes of health inequities, the OHSC will be overseen by the Surgeon General as the proposed office aligns with the purpose of this new role and position.

The Governor and Surgeon General would identify and appoint a Director of OHSC to carry out the following responsibilities:

- Assemble a staff team and an advisory committee
- Develop, implement, and monitor a California vision and plan for violence prevention, safety, and healing
- Establish and manage a statewide community of practice for leaders working on these issues throughout California
- Strengthen and professionalize community violence intervention and prevention as a licensed occupation
- Steward alignment, coordination, and synergy across statewide departments and agencies

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rexford Scott  
Legislative Aide  
State Capitol, Room 4140  
[Rexford.scott@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rexford.scott@asm.ca.gov)  
(916) 319-2056

## **SUPPORT**

---

### **Co-Sponsors:**

The Alliance for Boys and Men of Color (ABMoC)  
California Black Health Network (CBHN)  
California Peace Alliance/Department of Peacebuilding Campaign  
COPE  
Faith in Action-LIVEFREE  
Fathers & Families San Joaquin  
Flourish Agenda  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC)  
MILPA  
Prevention Institute  
Public Health Advocates  
RYSE Youth Center  
Urban Peace Institute  
Young Women's Freedom Center