Offered by:
SEN. LINARES, 33rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 972      File No. 195      Cal. No. 177

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF YOUTHS."

1 Strike section 5 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu thereof:

3 "(a) There is established a Children's Mental Health Task Force to study the effects of nutrition, genetics, environmental toxins, complementary and alternative treatments and psychotropic drugs on the mental, emotional and behavioral health of children. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation. The task force shall: (1) Study the effects of nutrition, genetics, environmental toxins, complementary and alternative treatments and psychotropic drugs on the mental, emotional and behavioral health of children; (2) gather and maintain current information regarding said effects; and (3) advise the General Assembly and Governor concerning the coordination and administration of state programs that may address the impact of said effects on the mental, emotional and
behavioral health of children using a results-based accountability framework.

(b) The task force shall consist of the Commissioner of Social Services, or said commissioner's designee, the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, and ten members appointed as follows:

(1) A psychologist licensed under chapter 383 of the general statutes appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(2) A child psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this state appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) A licensed and board-certified physician specializing in genetics appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(4) A public health expert specializing in the impact of environmental toxins on children's health appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(5) A toxicology expert specializing in the impact of environmental toxins on children's health appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(6) A full-time member of the faculty at a university or college in the state specializing in the impact of environmental toxins on children's health appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(7) A complementary and alternative medicine or integrative therapy expert specializing in the treatment of physical, mental, emotional and behavioral health issues in children appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children;
(8) An educator with expertise providing school-based mental health services in collaboration with community-based mental health service providers appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children; and

(9) A dietitian-nutritionist licensed under chapter 384b of the general statutes appointed by the senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children;

(10) A pharmacist appointed by the house ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children.

(c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the task force shall be chosen by the members of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(f) Not later than September 30, 2014, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of Children and Families and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or September 30, 2014, whichever is later."