



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 14, 2017	CONTACT: Ella Strain 916-319-2011 Ella.Strain@asm.ca.gov
Frazier Introduces Bill to Increase Education about Abusive Relationships	

Sacramento, CA – Today, Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D-Discovery Bay) introduced AB 643, a bill requiring public schools to provide age-appropriate education about healthy teen dating.

“Researchers have found that nearly a quarter of all girls and women who have ever been raped, attacked or stalked by an intimate partner – and 14 percent of men and boys in that situation – first experienced some form of dating violence between the ages of 11 and 17,” said Frazier. “If we can teach young people what healthy relationships are supposed to look like, we will give them the tools they need to avoid the unhealthy ones.”

Frazier credits Vacaville resident Sonia McClellin with the idea for the bill.

“From the moment I met Assemblymember Frazier I knew my dream of bringing this bill to the attention of the state was becoming a reality. I’d like to thank him for assisting me in exposing the need for education in our school systems regarding unhealthy and abusive relationships,” said McClellin. “Unhealthy relationships during teen years often lead to domestic violence as adults. I lost my sister to domestic violence when I was 14 and I am committed to ensuring that we provide education at an early age. I truly believe this would have made a difference and my sister might still be here today had this sensitive and far too often private subject matter been addressed through mandated education.”

AB 643 would direct the Department of Education to develop curriculum for students in public schools to recognize the signs of abusive relationships and prevent abuse that can lead to domestic violence later in life.

“Schools can help create a solid understanding of what respectful relationships look like if they focus on social and emotional learning,” stated Kathy Moore, Executive Director of California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. “These efforts will prevent adolescent dating abuse and end domestic violence in California's future generations.”

AB 643 is currently awaiting assignment to policy committee in the California State Assembly.

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Assemblymember Frazier represents the 11th Assembly District, which includes the communities of Antioch, Bethel Island, Birds Landing, Brentwood, Byron, Collinsville, Discovery Bay, Fairfield, Isleton, Knightsen, Locke, Oakley, Pittsburg (partial), Rio Vista, Suisun City, Travis AFB, Vacaville and Walnut Grove.

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