SAMPLE MESSAGE

Dear Governor Newsom,

We urgently request that you sign AB1214 to eliminate borderline personality disorder (BPD) stigma and discrimination from the Pretrial Diversion Bill.

Scientific research demonstrates BPD is a brain disorder, no different from bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, PTSD, or other conditions included in the bill. People with BPD deserve the same access to treatment if they meet the criteria for prison diversion.

Sending people to prison without the opportunity to receive care will increase the suicide risk of people incarcerated in California. Up to 70% of people diagnosed with BPD experience a suicide attempt and, tragically, 10% die by suicide.

By signing this bill, and removing language that discriminates against an already marginalized population -- you can grant them access to life-saving care and be on the forefront of history.

Your leadership can provide HOPE to millions of people suffering and their families. Thank you for creating a more just and inclusive world for people with borderline personality disorder.

 Additional Sample Comments for the Messages:

* Excluding individuals with BPD from pretrial diversion eligibility increases public stigma and discrimination about borderline personality disorder.
* People with BPD deserve equitable and just treatment, and compassion.
* Treatment is essential for reducing the risk of suicide among people with BPD, as self-harming behaviors are common in BPD.
* “As someone living with BPD, not being included in a prison diversion program makes me feel like the state of California sees people with BPD as “unsavables,” We have the ability to recover with treatment and support. By excluding us, California is telling us that our lives don’t matter, but they do. My life is worth saving.”

## ***5 Simple Steps to Email Governor Newsom***

*1. Go to the Governor’s Portal.* [*https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/*](https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/)

*2. Select* ***Topic*** *“An Active Bill” -* ***Specific Bill****: “AB 1412 - Pretrial Diversion for Borderline Personality Disorder” -* ***Purpose****: “leave a message”*

*3. Stance: click “PRO” that you are for the bill.*

*4. Message Subject: “Please Sign AB1412”*

*5. Enter a personal message and hit next, followed by your contact information and submit!*