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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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August 23, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Committee on Health
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Solano County SUPPORTS the CSAC Coalition of Letters dated August 14, 2023 and August 21, 2023, respectively, regarding MHSA core priorities and concerns regarding recent amendments to SB 326 (Eggman), the Behavioral Health Services Act

Dear Chairman Wood,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and their coalition partners – including the Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), and the County Probation Officers of California (CPOC) – regarding their collective response letters sent to you on August 14, 2023 and August 21, 2023, respectively, regarding proposed amendments to SB 326, the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA).

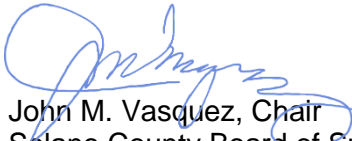
In their letter to you dated August 14, 2023, CSAC and their coalition of partners put forward three of their top core priorities regarding Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) reform. Solano County agrees with these core priority’s, including (1) maintaining MHSA funding for core mental health services, (2) adding fiscal protections and (3) narrowing the proposal to MHSA reform. We also agree with CSAC that Counties have the expertise when it comes to the laws and programming related to mental health funding, and addressing these concerns is critical to the success of this reform.

In their letter to you dated August 21, 2023, CSAC and their coalition of partners submitted three of their top priority concerns regarding recent amendments made to SB 326. Solano County agrees with these concerns, including (1) how the proposed 30 percent set-aside for housing interventions could take away from core mental health and prevention services; (2) how the proposal could actually exacerbate volatility in MHSA funding streams to Counties, and (3) how the state’s new prescriptive requirements in how Counties must spend MHSA funding could limit a County’s ability to design programs that best meet the needs of our local clients and communities.

While we understand this bill is still moving through the legislative process, we appreciate the opportunity for continued engagement to help strengthen and improve the proposal to improve the behavioral health system for everyone, including the people it intends to serve. The Solano County Board of Supervisors will continue our support of CSAC and their coalition of stakeholders as they prepare and submit language for consideration and inclusion in future amendments to SB 326. In the meantime, if you have any questions and / or would like to connect with one of our team members in our Behavior Health division, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Honorable Jim Wood
August 23, 2023
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Sincerely,



John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
The Honorable Susan Eggman, Senator
The Honorable Bill Dodd, Senator
The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, Assemblymember
Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, Chief Policy Officer, CSAC
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Jerry Huber, Director, Solano County Health and Social Services
Emery Cowan, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Services, Solano County
Dr. Bela Matyas, M.D., M.P.H., Solano County Health Officer
Dr. Christopher Hansen, Chief of Probation, Solano County
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners