



March 11, 2021

The Honorable James Ramos
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 681 (Ramos) LPS Data Collection – Support

Dear Assemblymember Ramos,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists, I write in support of your AB 681, which would require designated facilities to submit quarterly reports on Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) holds to the Department of Healthcare Services. This bill will satisfy one of the top recommendations of a recent audit of the LPS system and provide transparent data to develop best practices.

In 1967, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, beginning in Welfare and Institutions Code section 5050, established a civil process for the involuntary commitment of individuals living with a debilitating mental health disorder that results in their inability to care for their basic needs.

Under this California law, individuals with a psychiatric emergency may be placed on a 72-hour involuntary hold. The hold may be extended for 14 days and an additional 30 days, if necessary. An individual who is deemed to be gravely disabled may be placed in a 30-day temporary conservatorship by the court after the initial 72-hour hold and referred to a permanent conservatorship for up to one year after the end of the temporary conservatorship.

In June 2019, several stakeholders requested an audit of the LPS Act in an effort to better inform future decision-making in mental health treatment and care. The goals of the audit included identifying data on how many individuals are being placed under holds through the LPS Act and subsequent specifics of those holds, as well as discovering consistent criteria or standardization of the process and services offered across local governments.

Mental health crises require a community mental health response. Currently, the lack of data makes creating informed policy and addressing disparities in mental healthcare access difficult. AB 681 will require designated healthcare facilities to provide up-to-date data on LPS holds, ensuring that improvements can be made to the system and that mental healthcare access can be better provided across the state.

For these reasons, the California State Association of Psychiatrists is pleased to support AB 681 and would like to thank you for your authorship of this measure.

1415 L Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 446-4656

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yoder", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul J. Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair & Members, Assembly Health Committee