



March 10, 2021

The Honorable Brian Jones
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4088
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 528 (Jones) – Juveniles: health information summary: psychotropic medication - Support

Dear Senator Jones,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists, I write in support of your SB 528, which would create a health portal that will provide health care providers access to critical health information of a child in foster care.

In 2015, the California State Auditor released a report regarding California's Foster Care System and found that the State and counties failed to adequately oversee the prescription of psychotropic medications to children in the foster care system. Specifically, they found that many of the foster care youth's Health and Education Passports (HEP) did not identify all the psychotropic medications that the courts authorized, and none contained complete summaries of the psychosocial services that the foster children had received. Furthermore, CALACAP conducted a survey within their membership and found 40% of these members reported access to the HEP less than 10% of the time, and 40% report never having access to the HEP when treating foster youth. When HEP contains inaccurate and incomplete health information, health care providers may not have the critical information they need to make sound health care decisions for these vulnerable children.

SB 528 would create a universal electronic health care portal which would include the judicial authorization form for prescribing psychotropic medication (JV-220) and the HEP information allowing health care providers access to critical information in real-time for any foster child. For these reasons, the California State Association of Psychiatrists is pleased to support SB 528. Thank you for authoring this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul J. Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair & Members, Senate Health Committee
Chair and Members, Senate Human Services Committee

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