



September 17, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 110 (Wiener) Substance use disorder services: contingency management services – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists, I respectfully request your signature on SB 110 (Weiner), which seeks to address the increase in methamphetamine use and overdose deaths by expanding substance use disorder treatment options covered under Medi-Cal by requiring Medi-Cal to pay for contingency management.

SB 110 will address the worsening methamphetamine addiction crisis facing our state. The Recovery Incentives Act legalizes the substance use disorder treatment known as “contingency management” and authorizes Medi-Cal to cover it. Contingency management has proven to be the most effective method of treatment for methamphetamine addiction and is frequently used as a treatment program by the Veterans Affairs Administration. This intervention program gives those struggling with substance use disorder financial rewards if they enter substance use treatment programs, stay in the program, and get and remain sober. This positive reinforcement helps people reduce and even fully stop substance use.

In the Biden-Harris administration's new drug policy platform, increasing access to evidence-based treatment was slated as the number one priority. This includes contingency management. The platform cites the need to end “policy barriers related to contingency management interventions (motivational incentives) for stimulant use disorder” as part of its effort to expand evidence-based treatment.

There is currently no form of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for meth, unlike with opioids, where treatment options such as methadone are available. Contingency management is thus a critical tool in addressing the meth addiction crisis. With drug overdose deaths on the rise across the country, cities such as San Francisco saw a record number of overdose deaths in 2020 — effective substance use intervention programs are more important than ever. In San Francisco, according to data collected in 2019, roughly 60% of all overdose deaths were meth-related.

SB 110 will expand the use of contingency management for stimulant use disorder in California. Currently, there is no medication proven to treat stimulant use disorder. Contingency management is, therefore, a critical component of treatment.

For these reasons, the California State Association of Psychiatrists, I respectfully request your signature on SB 110 (Weiner).

Sincerely,

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

Paul J. Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Senator Scott Wiener