



April 7, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chairman, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, 390 LOB
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1001 (Haney) Health facilities: behavioral health emergency services – Support

Dear Chairman Wood,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write to you in support of AB 1001, which would require a general acute care hospital to adopt policies to respond to a patient requiring behavioral health emergency services, as defined. The bill would require that these protocols meet standards established by the department and consist of various parameters such as minimum staffing requirements for behavioral health emergency services, procedures for response by behavioral health emergency services personnel in a timely manner, and annual training, as specified. AB 1001 would also require the department to adopt regulations on standards for general acute care hospitals related to behavioral health emergency services, along with other provisions.

Direct patient care in general acute care facilities currently involves patients who have behavioral health needs, including needs related to mental health and substance use, and behavioral health emergencies. Furthermore, patient care outcomes in general acute care hospitals are dependent upon safe staffing levels and the competence of direct care personnel who staff those facilities. When there are insufficient staffing levels of direct patient care personnel, including registered nurses, who have the specialized competency to provide, and are appropriately trained in, behavioral health and behavioral health emergency response, it results in unsafe patient care and increased occurrences of workplace violence.

Therefore, AB 1001 seeks to ensure the availability of direct patient care personnel who have the specialized competency to provide, and are appropriately trained in, behavioral health and behavioral health emergency response in general acute care hospitals. To advance this goal, AB 1001 would create the Behavioral Health Emergency Response and Training Fund, which would provide grants to new or existing programs that focus on training mental health and addiction personnel to work in hospitals. Simply put, AB 1001 would help tackle the crisis of patients experiencing mental health and addiction emergencies by ensuring that they receive appropriate care in California's hospitals.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 1001.

Sincerely,

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

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Assembly Health Committee
Assemblymember Matt Haney