



April 7, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chairman, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1085 (Maienschein) Medi-Cal: housing support services – Support

Dear Chairman Holden,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write to you in support of AB 1085, which would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to seek any necessary federal approvals for a Medi-Cal benefit to cover housing support services within six months of the completion of an analysis on statewide provider capacity to provide these services. AB 1085 would also make a Medi-Cal beneficiary eligible for housing support services if the beneficiary is experiencing homelessness; or if the beneficiary is at risk of homelessness, having previously experienced homelessness, and is now residing in housing and needs housing support services. Other provisions in AB 1085 define these housing support services.

AB 1085 would expand housing support services to people experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness. Housing support services help people access housing, remain stably housed, and are essential for beneficiaries experiencing homelessness to meaningfully access health care. However, as evidence has shown it is not enough to only provide temporary assistance. Therefore, CSAP supports AB 1085 because it would help to make housing supports a permanent benefit. Overall, AB 1085 would improve health outcomes among Californians experiencing homelessness, reduce homelessness, standardize eligibility, and draw down millions of federal dollars.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 1085.

Sincerely,

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

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assemblymember Brian Maienschein