



April 7, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chairman, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O St., 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 268 (Weber) Board of State and Community Corrections — Support

Dear Chairman Holden,

The California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP) is proud to support AB 268 (Weber), which addresses the deficiencies in California's local detention facilities raised by the California Auditor Office and requires the BSCC to develop and adopt regulations pertaining to raising the standards of care for incarcerated people.

AB 268 would require jails to conduct mental health screenings when individuals are first booked, put in place additional continuing education requirements for corrections officers, and add licensed health care professionals and licensed mental health professionals to the board of state and community corrections.

In 2022, the State Auditor released a report that detailed serious shortcomings and failures to provide proper mental health and medical care in San Diego County jails. This resulted in the deaths of 185 individuals between 2006 and 2020 in San Diego jails, one of the highest in-custody death rates in the state. Many of these deaths could have been prevented had the San Diego Sheriff's Department provided better medical and mental health care and performed visual checks to ensure the safety of those in custody. AB 268 lays out a pathway to stop such negligence from happening again and help protect those detained in the State of California.

By addressing systemic failures in in-custody health and mental health practices, AB 268 will align current in-custody policies with best practices and help prevent the senseless loss of life due to the negligence in health and mental health care in county jails and state prisons.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 268 (Weber).

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