



February 24, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
1021 N St., Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 283 (Patterson) Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission - Support

Dear Chairman Wood,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists, I write to express support for AB 283 (Patterson), which would require the 16 members of the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission to include at least one member from each of the 10 regions of California, as defined by the 2020 census.

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was established in 2004 and focuses on community-based mental health services and needs. However, the current make-up of the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission lacks any representation in the Northern San Joaquin Valley, the Southern San Joaquin Valley, the Inland Empire, and the Orange County regions. Without proper representation from these areas, it cannot be guaranteed that critical mental health needs are being met.

AB 283 seeks to ensure that individuals facing mental health challenges are appropriately represented, regardless of where they live in the state. This bill recognizes that different regions may require different needs when it comes to mental health services, and there is no one-size-fits-all model.

It is essential that the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission have representatives from areas throughout the state, who know the needs of their region and who are passionate about getting individuals the help that they need. It is urgent that Californians with severe mental health challenges get on their path to recovery and the best way to achieve that goal is to have representatives that come from various areas throughout the state.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 283 (Patterson) and asks that you vote aye on this measure.

Sincerely,

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

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Assemblymember Jim Patterson
Members, Assembly Committee on Health