



April 4, 2023

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chairman, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, 309 LOB
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 815 (Wood) Health care coverage: provider credentials – Support as amended March 13, 2023

Dear Chairman Wood,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write to you in support of AB 815, which would simplify and streamline the healthcare provider credentialing process for providers and health plans.

Health Plan and provider credentialing pose many administrative challenges, similar to prior authorization and provider directories, as healthcare providers and plans share different information depending upon the different credentialing requirements and contractual relationships. Under current law, these administrative challenges result in wasted and overly burdensome administrative processes, and it disrupts health plans' ability to focus on ensuring their enrollees have access to an adequate network; the administrative burdens under current law also hinder providers' ability to focus on providing medical care.

In order to address these challenges, AB 815 seeks to require California's Health and Human Services Agency to create a credentialing process by first creating and maintaining a provider credentialing board. AB 815 would also require the board to be tasked with certifying private and public entities for purposes of credentialing health care providers, and if a physician chooses to be credentialed by an approved entity, it would require a health plan to accept the physician's credential from that entity.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 815.

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