



March 27, 2024

The Honorable Mia Bonta  
Chairwoman, Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 385  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1943 (Weber) Health information - Support**

Dear Chairwoman Bonta,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write to you in support of AB 1943, which would establish a California telehealth policy to collect telehealth data and identify indicators that track improvements in individual patient outcomes and overall population.

Currently telehealth policy is not fully informed because it does not require morbidity and mortality data to be collected. This information is important to collect because population health is influenced by social and economic forces in combination with biological and environmental factors. In other words, the measure of health outcomes and the role of social determinants of health allows for consideration of health inequality and inequity. Therefore, this more comprehensive approach requires some measure of outcomes of populations by determinants measured by medical care, public health interventions, aspects of social, physical environment, genetics and individual behavior.

Further, public health research reveals higher mortality and morbidity for all leading causes of death in low-income households and communities of color. Contributing factors include less access to health care and medical expertise. Thus, the challenge remains to measure to what extent access to Telehealth can reduce adverse health outcomes for residents who are both economically disadvantaged and medically disadvantaged.

CSAP is proud to support AB1943 because it is a vital link in the quest for Health Equity. CSAP also applauds the author for the intention of the bill, which is to harness the power of telehealth technology to increase access to quality healthcare and specialized medical expertise for low income and medically-disadvantaged Californians. Passage of AB 1943 would ultimately help augment and enhance health and medical care and improve individual patient outcomes and overall population health.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 1943 and respectfully urges an aye vote 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: Chair and Members, Assembly Health Committee