



March 27, 2024

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

**Re: AB 1970 (Jackson) Mental Health: Black Mental Health Navigator Certification Pilot Program – Support with amendments**

Dear Chairwoman Bonta,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write in support of AB 1970 and respectfully request that the bill language be amended from Mental Health to Behavioral Health.

AB 1970 would, commencing July 1, 2025, establish, until June 30, 2028, the Black Mental Health Navigator Certification Pilot Program, to be administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, to provide comprehensive training in mental health resources and awareness.

While CSAP supports the bill and its intentions, by changing the language to Behavioral Health it would be more inclusive and allow for a more accurate and comprehensive representation of the individuals the legislation is aimed at helping. Further, changing the wording to Behavioral Health mirrors other reforms taken by the Newsom Administration and the Legislature.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 1970 and respectfully requests that the bill be amended from Mental Health to Behavioral Health.

Sincerely,

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

Paul Yoder  
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Assembly Health Committee  
The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson