



March 26, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2882 California Community Corrections Performance Incentives - Support

Dear Chairman McCarty,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write to you in support of AB 2882, which would enhance the planning and reporting process in the community corrections system.

The share of incarcerated in California county jails with mental health needs has been steadily increasing in recent decades. Today, 53% of county inmates have mental health needs – up from approximately 20% in 2010. At the same time as this population increase, local budgets have not adjusted to meet the needs of the new jail population. For example, 46 counties spend less than 15% of Public Safety Realignment funding on behavioral health, and 36 counties spend less than 10% of funding on behavioral health, according to an analysis conducted by the Steinberg Institute.

Currently, public safety realignment spending and outcomes data do not align with behavioral health reforms, creating a knowledge gap that prevents California from leveraging every available dollar to meet statewide goals of reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

Therefore, CSAP supports AB 2882 because it would improve transparency and accountability in how county public safety funding is spent. This will ensure that every dollar is leveraged to its fullest potential and help reduce recidivism.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 2882.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is positioned above the printed name.

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee