



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1017 (Eggman) Mental health: involuntary treatment: antipsychotic medication – CO-SPONSOR

Dear Chair Caballero,

The California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP) is proud to support and co-sponsor SB 1017, which will establish a solution to collect, aggregate, and display information about beds in inpatient psychiatric facilities, crisis stabilization units, residential community mental health facilities, and licensed residential alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities.

Hospital emergency departments continue to be frontline responders to those in behavioral health crises, and finding the most appropriate treatment, as timely as possible, is critical to improve outcomes. Mental illness, like many other health conditions, when treated early and with appropriate supports and services, will be less disabling and result in fewer adverse outcomes. Although 16% of California adults live with a mental illness, more than 60% of those individuals do not receive treatment. While we have seen a small increase in psychiatric beds since 2012, we are still falling well below nationally established standards of 40-60 beds per 100,000 population state and have 30% fewer beds than we had in 1995.

Many individuals receive initial assessment and stabilization for a psychiatric crisis in the emergency department, which is a crucial piece of the safety net for individuals with difficulty accessing mental health services, including those who lack awareness of their own mental health condition. However, due to a combination of a difficult-to-navigate crisis response system, which lacks adequate capacity, - an environment not conducive to the stabilization of psychiatric crisis - and a lack of mental health programs, facilities, and professionals, individuals in crisis often languish untreated in emergency departments for long periods of time as ED staff struggle to find open beds.

CSAP is proud to co-sponsor SB 1017 because access to a system that displays available beds will help providers quickly find and secure treatment for clients in appropriate settings and reduce delays or extended stays in emergency rooms.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to co-sponsor SB 1017 and respectfully requests your aye vote on this measure.

Sincerely,

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

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee