



March 26, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chairman, Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7510
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1238 (Eggman) Lanterman-Petris-Short Act – Co-Sponsor

Dear Chairman Roth,

The California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP) is proud to support and co-sponsor SB 1238, which would authorize the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to implement, interpret, or make specific the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS), in whole or in part, by means of information notices, provider bulletins, or other similar instructions, without taking any further regulatory action.

While there has been progress far too many people suffering with significant psychotic disorders are in incredibly unsafe situations, leading to severe injury, incarceration, homelessness, or death. While well-intentioned, the dated criteria in LPS no longer work for today and further reform is still needed.

SB 1238 would help ensure those who need help can get it by expanding the definition of a “facility designated by the county for evaluation and treatment” or “designated facility” by specifying that it may also include a facility that both has appropriate services, personnel, and security to safely treat individuals being held involuntarily and is licensed or certified as a skilled nursing facility, mental health rehabilitation center, or as a facility capable of providing treatment at American Society of Addiction Medicine levels of care 3.7 to 4.0, inclusive. Further, SB 1238 would also require DHCS to authorize licensed psychiatric health facilities and licensed mental health rehabilitation centers to admit an individual who is diagnosed only with a substance use disorder.

Ultimately, SB 1238 would allow for licensed professionals to more accurately and comprehensively provide for the needs of individuals experiencing a substantial risk of serious harm due to a mental health or substance use disorder; SB 1238 would help to provide dignity and treatment to those who are the most difficult to reach. Lastly, this bill is in line with other recent legislative actions pertaining to the LPS Act.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support and co-sponsor SB 1238 and respectfully requests your aye vote on this measure.

Sincerely,

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

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Senate Health Committee
The Honorable Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman