



April 3, 2024

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
California State Senate District 10
1021 O Street, Suite 7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1319 (Wahab) Skilled nursing facilities: approval to provide therapeutic behavioral health programs - Support

Dear Senator Wahab,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write in support of SB 1319, which will streamline the process for converting unused skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to behavioral health facilities to ensure they can operate in a timely manner, as a response to the increased need for behavioral health facilities in the state.

Existing law requires skilled nursing facilities that intend to provide behavioral health services in a separate unit of the facility to seek approval from multiple state departments including: the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

SB 1319 contributes to the Senate's evidence-based approach to increase access to treatment facilities by directing the relevant state departments to allow applicants to submit applications and documentation simultaneously to all relevant state departments in an effort to thoughtfully expedite the approval process.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support SB 1319.

Sincerely,

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

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair and Members, Senate Health Committee