



March 21, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 348 (Krell) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta,

Hospitals are on the front line of California’s mental health and substance use disorder crisis, stabilizing and treating people in hospital emergency departments, behavioral health units of general medical hospitals, and freestanding psychiatric hospitals. Hospitals see firsthand the growing need for behavioral health services and understand that ensuring care is available for Californians living with serious mental illness or emotional disturbance is critical to ensuring a healthy California for all.

That’s why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, is pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB) 348, which would expand access to certain evidence-based outpatient programs under the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA).

Hospitals provide short-term, stabilizing treatment during a crisis — but the most effective way to maintain patients’ well-being is through outpatient support. One particularly effective model, known as Full-Service Partnerships (FSPs), has demonstrated considerable benefits. Research [published by the RAND Corporation](#) found that patients in these programs experienced fewer psychiatric inpatient admissions, decreased judicial system involvement, and greater housing stability.

AB 348 recognizes this model’s significant benefits and would establish presumptive eligibility for FSP services to ensure that individuals with serious mental illness who are most at risk can access this effective model of care without unnecessary delays. Under the bill, individuals would qualify for FSP services if they meet specified criteria, including having had two or more psychiatric emergency department visits in the past six months. Establishing priority populations for FSPs would create a consistent, statewide approach to prioritizing access to these intensive behavioral health services.

Though funding has existed for FSPs for more than two decades, individuals at the highest risk of crisis are too often left without access due to county-by-county variations in eligibility processes and complex administrative hurdles. The BHSA’s enactment following passage of Proposition 1 in 2024 means that

counties will soon be increasing their investments in the FSP model of care. Now is the time to ensure FSPs are available – without hurdles – to the people who need them most throughout the state.

For these reasons, CHA supports AB 348.

Sincerely,



Leah Barros
Consulting Lobbyist
California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Maggie Krell
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Logan Hess, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus