

# Media Statement

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## California Hospital Association, NAMI California Applaud Behavioral Health Action by Governor Newsom

Following Gov. Newsom’s signing of a bill (AB 3242) on Friday that improves access to behavioral health care, the California Hospital Association and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California have issued the following statements:

“On behalf of those we care for, California hospitals applaud Governor Newsom for signing into law a bill that will make urgent mental health treatment more accessible to those in need,” said Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the California Hospital Association. “This legislation, advanced in partnership with NAMI California and Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, allows the use of telehealth to improve response times to emergency department requests for mental health evaluations. That means people in need will be able to get the right care more quickly, an invaluable tool as California’s health care providers work together to meet the growing needs of people with behavioral health conditions.”

“NAMI California joins the California hospitals in our appreciation to Governor Newsom for signing this important piece of legislation addressing a key barrier to effective treatment for mental illness in California,” said Jessica Cruz, CEO of NAMI California. “Assemblymember Irwin and the California Hospital Association have been important partners as we’ve looked at innovative and desperately needed solutions like telehealth to help address the critical bottleneck of assessment requests from emergency departments. As our families know, time spent waiting while you are in crisis helps no one. Getting prompt, quality assessment is an important first step in creating a care continuum that meets people where they are.”

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