



September 2, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O St., Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 1338 (Umberg) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

Every day, hospitals across California care for an increasing number of individuals living with a serious mental illness, and they embrace the essential role they play in helping to address crises. Because hospitals' mission is to ensure the best possible care for those who turn to them, they are very concerned that an insufficient provision of community-based outreach, case management, and treatment services is leading to avoidable involuntary detentions and hospitalizations for too many Californians.

Senate Bill (SB) 1338 holds great promise for creating new pathways to treatment and housing for the many individuals hospitals see each day who — under the status quo — may otherwise continue to cycle needlessly through periods of crisis, homelessness, failing health, and hospitalization. In establishing the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Court Program, the bill creates a new mechanism to bring unserved and underserved individuals to the attention of our county partners to avoid more restrictive approaches, such as conservatorship.

For these reasons, the California Hospital Association — on behalf of its more than 400 hospital and health system members, including 162 hospitals that provide acute psychiatric inpatient treatment — requests your signature on SB 1338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leah Barros", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Leah Barros
Consulting Lobbyist, California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Tom Umberg
Tam Ma, Health Deputy, Office of the Governor
Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency
Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health, California Health & Human Services Agency