



March 08, 2024

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1021 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1842 (Reyes) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

California's hospitals see firsthand the devastating impact of a lack of timely access to effective treatment for substance use disorders. Every day, hospitals and emergency departments care for people who have overdosed or whose health has been compromised by a substance use disorder (SUD). The health care professionals who treat these patients are in key positions to connect individuals to the critical services they need.

On behalf of our more than 400 hospital and health system members, the California Hospital Association (CHA) is writing to express support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1842 (Reyes), which would prohibit commercial health insurers from imposing prior authorization rules that create barriers for medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

This measure would help address the current crisis in our state. Physicians who treat patients with SUDs must be able to select and implement the most effective treatment regimen, including MAT, without the unnecessary barriers and delays that occur with a requirement for prior authorization.

There is currently no prior authorization needed for accessing MAT for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and 17 states have already adopted policies to remove prior authorization requirements for commercial health insurers. Implementation of AB 1842 would be a key step to ensure California's citizens have meaningful access to the specialized care they need.

For these reasons, CHA requests your "AYE" vote on AB 1842.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Berdugo", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rony Berdugo
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Lara Flynn, Chief Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Justin Boman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus