

August 15, 2023

The Hon. Jim Wood, Chair  
Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 326 (Eggman) As Amended July 13, 2023 - OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Wood & Members:

The MHSA Steering Committee, County of Sacramento, opposes SB 326. This measure would eliminate 30% of the funding now distributed to California's counties. We find that the Governor's proposal to modernize the Mental Health Services Act will likely result in spending less on a number of existing programs funded through MHSA, potentially reducing outpatient services, crisis response, prevention services, and outreach. There is a significant probability that reducing funding of mental health services funded through MHSA will cause a substantial decline in both the quality of service and the number of folks who can be served.

Additionally, there is an insufficient amount of time for the general public to gain a thorough enough understanding of the proposal in order to make a well-informed decision on how to vote in March, if the bill is signed.

Without doubt, the Governor's desire to step up assistance to the homeless and to get homeless people off the streets and into permanent housing is worthy. Without doubt, the homeless, as a class, are among the people who are the most vulnerable in society and worthy of whatever help may be given. Transferring the money raised by a tax created by the voters specifically to help the mentally ill in order to help another group, no matter how worthy the effort or how needy the group, is not the best policy. To do so is to pit one very needy group of folks against another, equally needy group.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

[Name, Title if Applicable]

Sacramento County Mental Health Board

cc: The Hon. Susan Eggman