



June 18, 2018

1100 K Street  
Suite 101  
Sacramento  
California  
95814

Telephone  
916.327.7500

Facsimile  
916.441.5507

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 142 (Beall) – Criminal offenders: mental health  
As Amended June 21, 2017 – SUPPORT  
Set to be heard June 26, 2018 – Assembly Public Safety Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) writes in support of Senate Bill 142 by Senator Jim Beall. This measure, as amended, would incentivize counties to invest more in effective local mental health services by sharing state savings when a county reduces the number of people with mental illness sent to state prison.

Specifically, SB 142 would establish the State Community Mental Health Performance Incentives Fund that, upon an appropriation by the Legislature, would be available for transfer to counties to be deposited in a county-based fund account. Incentive payments would be made available to the County Board of Supervisors for utilization by county and other local community mental health programs to provide adult offenders with treatment services that address mental health needs and risk factors for incarceration.

Last year, the National Stepping Up Initiative hosted a California Summit co-sponsored by CSAC in Sacramento. Fifty-three county teams comprised of Supervisors, Administrative/Executive Officers, Sheriffs, District Attorneys and Behavioral Health Directors and their various staff attended this event. The event offered participants the opportunity to engage with national experts, peers from across the state, and people living with mental illnesses to advance county plans to improve the way counties respond to people with mental illnesses who are in contact with local criminal justice systems.

SB 142 is in line with counties' commitment to reducing the number of mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system. In addition, this measure will reduce crime, save money for local communities and assist in alleviating the growing population of mentally ill individuals in state and county detention facilities.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports SB 142 and requests your **AYE** vote. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jdevencenzi@counties.org](mailto:jdevencenzi@counties.org) or 916.650.8131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Devencenzi', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Devencenzi  
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Jim Beall, California State Senate  
Members and Consultant, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus