



® June 13, 2018

1100 K Street
Suite 101
Sacramento
California
95814

Telephone
916.327.7500

Facsimile
916.441.5507

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 931 (Hertzberg) – Conservatorships: custody status.
As Amended on March 19, 2018 – SUPPORT
Set to be heard June 26, 2018 - Assembly Health Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Wood,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of Senate Bill 931 by Senator Bob Hertzberg. This measure would amend the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act to specify that custody status cannot be used as the sole reason to postpone the psychiatric conservatorship evaluation process.

Due to a longstanding and chronic shortage of psychiatric treatment resources, individuals suffering from a severe mental illness may be booked into county jail upon a criminal offense simply because there are no immediate alternatives for their placement. Under existing law and practice, these individuals often find themselves confined in the county jail for substantial periods of time, and are not evaluated for conservatorship status and appropriate treatment options until the conclusion of their criminal case. Delaying conservatorship evaluations often has the effect of keeping these persons in custody longer than necessary. Senate Bill 931 seeks to address this issue by prohibiting a conservatorship investigator from failing to schedule an investigation based solely upon the custody status of the individual.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports SB 931 and respectfully requests your **AYE** vote. Should you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at jdevencenzi@counties.org or (916) 650-8131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Devencenzi'.

Jessica Devencenzi
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Bob Hertzberg, California State Senate
Members and Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Peter Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus