



® May 9, 2017

1100 K Street
Suite 101
Sacramento
California
95814

Telephone
916.327.7500

Facsimile
916.441.5507

The Honorable Susan Eggman
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4117
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 720 (Eggman) – Inmates: psychiatric medication: informed consent.
As Amended April 17, 2017 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Eggman,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) writes in support of Assembly Bill 720, your measure that would authorize the involuntary administration of psychotropic medication to county jail inmates who are awaiting arraignment, trial and sentencing.

Current state law allows for the involuntary administration of psychotropic medication to both inmates in state prison and inmates in county jail. These statutes set forth the procedures and timelines for providing notice and judicial review of such orders. However, current law does not make these provisions applicable to inmates in county jails who have not yet been sentenced, leaving a loophole in the law.

AB 720 would extend the process of involuntarily medicating inmates to those awaiting adjudication to ensure they can receive timely, effective treatment instead of being incarcerated for weeks or months without treatment. Involuntary medication in jails can help reduce harm in extreme cases of danger to the inmate, other inmates or staff, as well as treat an inmate's grave disability. By extending this process, AB 720 would address ongoing problems and challenges that county jails across the state are facing while addressing the mental health needs of inmates.

It is for these reasons CSAC supports AB 720. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at dkernan@counties.org or 916.650.8131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Darby Kernan'.

Darby Kernan
Legislative Representative