



July 20, 2017

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The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 720 (Eggman) – Inmates: psychiatric medication: informed consent.
As Amended July 13, 2017 – SUPPORT
Set to be heard August 21, 2014 – Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Lara,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) writes in support of Assembly Bill 720 by Assembly Member Eggman. This measure, as amended, 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 and respectfully requests your **AYE** vote. 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, reading 'Darby Kernan', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darby Kernan
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Susan Eggman, California State Senate
Members and Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee