



California State Association of Counties
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 327-7500



Urban Counties of California
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 327-7531

June 16, 2017

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

AB 114 (Ting) – Public Health As Amended on June 12, 2017 – SUPPORT

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and Urban Counties of California (UCC) are pleased to SUPPORT the provisions contained within the June 12 versions of AB 114 by Assembly Member Phil Ting and twin budget trailer bill SB 98 by the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review that relate to resolving Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) fund reversion policy.

The current language in AB 114 and SB 98 comes as a result of a collaborative process begun by Senator Jim Beall to develop a solution to the reversion of MHSA funding from counties if it is not expended within three years. Senator Beall, as a respected leader in the mental health community, has led the charge to ensure that MHSA funding is being spent by counties for preventative and innovative behavioral health services in our communities.

CSAC and UCC are pleased to support the solution outlined in AB 114 and SB 98, which would:

- Forgive counties for retroactive unspent funds, but require them to submit a plan for expending the funding consistent with the MHSA by July 1, 2018 or risk reversion;
- Assist small counties (those with under 200,000 residents) with expending the funds by lengthening the reversion period for these counties from three to five years;
- Clarify when the reversion period begins, which will also help ensure better tracking of funds subject to reversion;
- Clarify how reverted funds are returned to all counties and ensuring that the original purpose for the funding is preserved, i.e. if a county's prevention and early intervention funding reverts, the state would reallocate that funding across all counties but specify that it can only be used for prevention and early intervention activities;
- Improve data sharing and reporting by requiring the Department of Health Care services to more closely monitor MHSA funding subject to reversion and provide regular updates to the Legislature and the public.

We believe these changes will ensure that MHSA funding is being used to provide critical community mental health services. We are also committed to continuing the conversation on potential technical cleanup and other concerns that Senator Beall has raised, and seek a collaborative process as his SB 192 moves through the Legislature.

It is for these reasons that CSAC and UCC respectfully urge your AYE vote on SB 98 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) and AB 114 (Ting). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate

to contact us at (916) 650-8110 (Farrah McDaid Ting, CSAC Legislative Representative) and (916) 327-7531 (Jolena Voorhis, UCC Executive Director). Thank you.

cc: Honorable Members, California State Senate
Donna Campbell, Deputy Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
Jennifer Kent, Director, Department of Health Care Services
Amy Costa, Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Karen Baylor, Deputy Director, Department of Health Care Services
Marjorie Swartz, Consultant, Office of Pro tem Kevin de León
Jennifer Troia, Consultant, Office of Pro tem Kevin de León
Carla Saporta, Senator Jim Beall's Office
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Assembly Speaker Rendon's Office
Paula Villescaz, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Joe Parra, Senate Republican Caucus
Peter Anderson, Assembly Republican Caucus
Kirsten Barlow, Executive Director, County Behavioral Health Directors Association
Adrienne Shilton, Director of Government Affairs, Steinberg Institute
Toby Ewing, Executive Director, Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission