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April 19, 2017

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

Re: **AB 1372 (Levine) – Crisis Stabilization Units: Psychiatric Patients**
     As Amended March 30, 2017 – SUPPORT
     Set for Hearing on April 25, 2017 – Assembly Health Committee

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to have a SUPPORT position on AB 1372 as introduced by Assembly Member Marc Levine, which would establish a process by which a certified crisis stabilization unit may be authorized to provide medically necessary crisis stabilization services to beneficiaries for an extended period in those cases in which a beneficiary in the unit needs inpatient psychiatric care, but an appropriate inpatient bed is not available.

California is facing a shortage on inpatient psychiatric beds to serve residents. AB 1372 would provide crisis stabilization units with a needed tool to better ensure that beneficiaries are able to receive the psychiatric services they need. While ultimately, increased capacity of inpatient beds is needed, AB 1372 provides crisis stabilization units with a crucial short-term tool to better meet the medical needs of beneficiaries.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 1372 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote to allow certified crisis stabilization units to provide beneficiaries with medically necessary inpatient psychiatric care for an extended period of time when an appropriate inpatient bed is not available. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 327-7500 Ext. 509 or dbaker@counties.org

Sincerely,

DeAnn Baker
CSAC Deputy Executive Director, Legislative Affairs

cc: The Honorable Marc Levine Member, California State Assembly
        Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
        Paula Villescaz, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee