



mindstrong

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Ed Hernandez  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
California State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1315 (Mullin): Mental health: early psychosis detection and intervention – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hernandez,

Mindstrong Health enthusiastically supports AB 1315 by Assemblymember Kevin Mullin. AB 1315 provides the opportunity to expand evidenced-based early psychosis detection and intervention services and supports to youth and young adults who are at-risk of, or experiencing, psychotic symptoms or have other serious mood disorders.

Prior to moving to California in 2016, I served as the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health in both the George W. Bush and the Barak Obama administrations. One of the most costly and serious medical problems we addressed was schizophrenia, a disease that causes more disability than nearly any other medical illness. The onset of schizophrenia is typically between ages 15 and 25 beginning with a psychotic break that is both terrifying and traumatic. Nearly 100,000 adolescents and young adults experience a first-episode of psychosis each year in this country. California can lead the nation in addressing this problem with intensive early psychosis and detection programs at the local level. At NIMH we demonstrated the efficacy of early detection and early intervention. Now is the time to move from research to practice.

Assemblymember Mullin's AB 1315 would accomplish this by creating a public-private partnership to leverage competitive funding for counties. Under AB 1315, counties that choose to participate must meet specified requirements for evidence-based services and supports and provide a contribution of local funds, such as Mental Health Services Act moneys. Private donations would provide the critical incentive for local communities to become engaged and focus on this substantive gap in services that, if untreated, can initiate a trajectory of accumulating disability in adulthood.

Beyond the funding, AB 1315 offers a process for including timely expertise, a defined public administrative pathway, and the ability to create new programs or to expand and improve existing ones at the local level. This is why Mindstrong Health is pleased to support AB 1315, and we respectfully ask for your "Aye" vote. Should you have any questions about our support, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas R. Insel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas R. Insel, MD  
President and Co-founder, Mindstrong Health

cc: The Honorable Kevin Mullin, Speaker pro Tempore of the Assembly  
Honorable Members, Senate Health Committee  
Reyes Diaz, Consultant, Senate Health Committee  
Adrienne Shilton, Steinberg Institute