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Assembly
California Legislature



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April 30, 2026

Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Dawn Addis, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to Proposal to Make the Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Benefit Optional

Dear Chair Gabriel and Chair Addis:

We, the undersigned Members of the California State Assembly, write to express our **strong opposition** to the Governor's 2026–27 January Budget proposal to make the Medi-Cal Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services benefit optional for counties.

California has made a clear and deliberate commitment to building a **comprehensive, community-based behavioral health crisis system**. Through landmark efforts such as AB 988 and the implementation of Proposition 1, the state has prioritized a coordinated crisis continuum that connects individuals to care, reduces reliance on law enforcement, and prevents unnecessary hospitalization.

Mobile crisis teams are foundational to that system. These teams provide timely, clinically appropriate responses in the community, helping to safely de-escalate crises and connect individuals to ongoing services. Evidence shows that mobile crisis services reduce emergency department utilization, decrease law enforcement involvement, and increase linkage to care, with nearly half of individuals served connected to mental health services within 30 days.

Importantly, while established as a Medi-Cal benefit, mobile crisis teams **serve far beyond the Medi-Cal population**, responding to individuals regardless of insurance status and playing a critical role in addressing homelessness, substance use conditions, and the youth mental health crisis.

The proposal to make this benefit optional would **undermine these gains and create a fragmented, inequitable system** in which access to life-saving crisis services depends on geography. Behavioral health crises do not stop at county lines, and a patchwork approach will leave too many Californians without access to care when they need it most.

This proposal also comes at a time of significant fiscal and structural change. Counties are already navigating the implementation of the Behavioral Health Services Act and facing new fiscal pressures. Shifting the non-federal share of mobile crisis costs to counties—estimated at approximately \$169 million annually—will force difficult tradeoffs and could result in reduced or eliminated services in some regions.

Further, federal requirements such as the Medicaid EPSDT mandate will continue to require mobile crisis services for youth, meaning this proposal would create a **two-tiered system** where services are guaranteed for children but uncertain for adults—adding confusion and risk for patients, providers, and counties alike.

Over the past several years, the state and counties have made **significant investments in workforce, infrastructure, and system coordination** to stand up mobile crisis services. Rolling back the statewide requirement now risks destabilizing that progress and increasing reliance on higher-cost, higher-acuity systems that we have worked to move away from.

At its core, this proposal moves California in the wrong direction. Instead of strengthening our crisis response system, it weakens it. Instead of ensuring equitable access, it creates disparity. And instead of building on our investments, it puts them at risk.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to **reject the Governor's proposal** and maintain the Medi-Cal mobile crisis benefit as a **statewide, mandatory service**.

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership on behalf of Californians experiencing behavioral health crises.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
16th Assembly District



Assemblymember Gail Pellerin
28th Assembly District



Assemblymember Tina McKinnor
61st Assembly District



Assemblymember Corey Jackson
60th Assembly District



Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
48th Assembly District



Assemblymember Juan Carillo
39th Assembly District



Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez
54th Assembly District



Assemblymember Lori Wilson
11th Assembly District



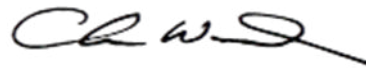
Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo
40th Assembly District



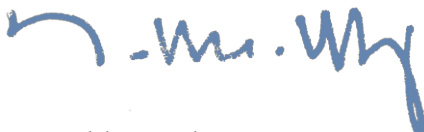
Assemblymember Issac Bryan
55th Assembly District



Assemblymember AnaMarie Avila Farias
15th Assembly District



Assemblymember Chris Ward
78th Assembly District



Assemblymember Damon Connolly
12th Assembly District



Assemblymember Robert Garcia
50th Assembly District



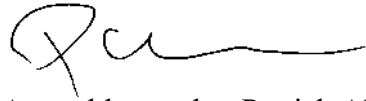
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
25th Assembly District



Assemblymember Maggy Krell
6th Assembly District



Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva
67th Assembly District



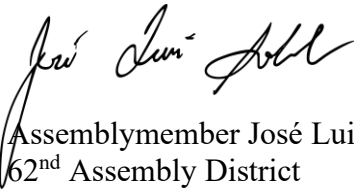
Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens
26th Assembly District



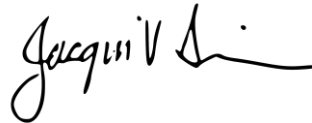
Assemblymember Marc Berman
23rd Assembly District



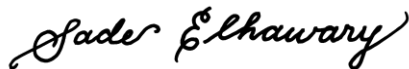
Assemblymember Mike Fong
49th Assembly District



Assemblymember José Luis Solache, Jr.
62nd Assembly District



Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
42nd Assembly District



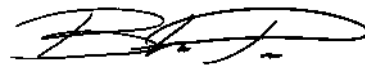
Assemblymember Sade Elhawary
57th Assembly District



Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
31st Assembly District



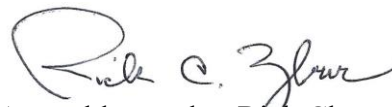
Assemblymember Gregg Hart
37th Assembly District



Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco
64th Assembly District



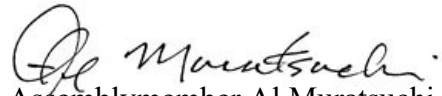
Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez
53rd Assembly District



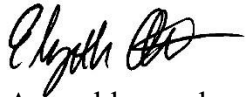
Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur
51st Assembly District



Assemblymember Darshana Patel
76th Assembly District



Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
66th Assembly District



Assemblymember Liz Ortega
20th Assembly District



Assemblymember Chris Rogers
2nd Assembly District



Assemblymember Mike Gipson
65th Assembly District



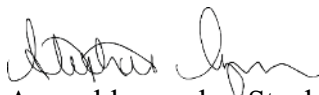
Assemblymember Alex Lee
24th Assembly District



Assemblymember Diane Papan
21st Assembly District



Assemblymember Matt Haney
17th Assembly District



Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen
10th Assembly District



Assemblymember Greg Wallis
47th Assembly District