

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 363 (Eggman) Facilities for inpatient and residential mental health and substance use disorder: database.
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Eggman,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your SB 363, which would establish a real-time behavioral health bed database.

Specifically, this measure would require the State Department of Health Care Services to develop a database by 2025 to collect, aggregate, and display information about beds in inpatient psychiatric facilities, crisis stabilization units, community care facilities, and licensed residential alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities. This information would help provide timely access to care and increase coordination between service settings.

SB 363 would additionally require this database to include data related to the facility, including if a bed is available, the services provided, diagnoses, and the age range for which the bed is appropriate. This data would streamline access to care and be a valuable tool for local leaders and policymakers in directing funding and resources based on bed capacity and utilization.

Mental illness and substance use, like many other health conditions, when treated early and with appropriate supports and services, will be less disabling and result in fewer adverse outcomes. SB 363 would provide easily accessible bed availability data that would connect individuals to care more quickly, and also help cut down on extended emergency room stays. As a City we have prioritized community health and safety and believe that mental health support is a vital part of health and safety.

We believe SB 363 is a step in the right direction, providing critical data to help assess the capacity of our system.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto is pleased to support your SB 363.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto