

City of Palo Alto

Office of the Mayor and City Council

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 43 (Eggman) Behavioral Health.
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 43, which modernizes portions of California's behavioral health treatment system and social safety net system to ensure that vulnerable individuals with the most acute needs receive access to the care they need.

SB 43 modernizes the definition of "gravely disabled" within the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act to include conditions that result in a substantial risk of serious harm to an individual's physical or mental health. This includes the inability to seek medical care, adequate shelter, or self-protection and safety. Updating this definition better reflects the contemporary realities present in our communities, ensuring that individuals at risk of significant harm receive the help they need.

Additionally, this measure allows relevant medical history to be considered by the court in a uniform manner across the state by creating a hearsay exemption for information contained in a medical record so all relevant information can be presented and considered by the court. This would ensure that a complete and accurate picture is presented in court when considering the very serious step of conservatorship.

Cities are on the front lines of addressing homelessness and need additional tools and resources to end this crisis in our state. We recognize that for unsheltered individuals with severe behavioral health needs, access to a comprehensive care system can be essential to addressing their homelessness. That is why The City of Palo Alto is eager to support legislation such as SB 43, which takes a comprehensive look at our existing system and makes targeted improvements.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto is pleased to support your SB 43.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto