



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lili Bosse, Mayor

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Tom Umberg
Senator, 34th District
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Susan Eggman
Senator, 5th District
1021 O Street, Suite 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1338 (Umberg and Eggman)
Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program
City of Beverly Hills, SUPPORT

Dear Senator Umberg and Senator Eggman:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you that our city has adopted a position of **SUPPORT** for **SB 1338**. **SB 1338** would establish the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program, which would authorize specified persons to petition a civil court to create a CARE plan and implement services for individuals suffering from specified severe mental health disorders. If the court determines the individual is eligible for the CARE Court Program, the court will order the implementation of a CARE plan, as devised by the relevant county behavioral services agency, and would oversee the individual's participation in the plan.

The behavioral health crisis that we see every day on our streets requires comprehensive change to our existing system and new ways of addressing this persistent and worsening challenge. **SB 1338** offers an important new tool to assist the most vulnerable among us and to help give them the dignity we all deserve. One of our City's main priority continues to be addressing our local, regional, state, and national homelessness crisis. We strongly believe your legislation will provide the supportive services needed to assist those who are suffering from a severe mental health crisis, whether they are housed or unhoused.

California's existing mechanisms to treat persons with mental illness include treatment for persons who are a danger to themselves or others, or "gravely disabled" under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act; assisted outpatient treatment under Laura's Law; and a housing conservatorship being implemented in San Francisco on a pilot basis.

The LPS Act allows staff in a qualified treatment facility, or other county-designated professionals, to provide involuntary mental health treatment to people who, because of a mental illness, are a danger to themselves or others, or cannot provide for their basic personal needs of food, clothing, or shelter. Laura's

Law is a court-ordered program aimed at individuals with mental illness who do not qualify for involuntary commitment to an inpatient facility. But to date, these existing provisions have proven inadequate to connect people with chronic mental illness, severe addiction problems, or both – typically root causes for chronic homelessness.

Your proposed CARE Court program is a response to the urgent need for innovative solutions for individuals who are suffering with untreated schizophrenia spectrum and certain psychotic disorders, often unhoused in our communities, and those who face high risks for repeated hospitalization, incarceration, institutionalization, conservatorship, and premature death.

The City is very concerned with ensuring the civil rights and liberties for individuals who may be directed to the CARE Court Program are protected such that they receive proven methods for addressing their mental health issues and receive the appropriate supportive services throughout the program to ensure they can graduate from the program.

SB 1338 would establish a process that must include a court-ordered Care Plan for up to 24 months. Each plan is managed by a care team in the community who have comprehensive knowledge of how to most appropriately treat those individuals suffering from untreated schizophrenia spectrum and certain psychotic disorders. This may include clinically prescribed, individualized interventions with supportive services, medication, and a housing plan.

The client-centered approach of **SB 1338** also includes a public defender and supporter to help make self-directed care decisions in addition to their full clinical team, as well as opportunities for early engagement and settlement agreements for treatment plans. This framework must be implemented in a conscientious and sustainable manner, with a process that will ensure consistent, early intervention and assistance for some of the most vulnerable Californians.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills **SUPPORTS SB 1338** and respectfully requests the bill maintains and/or strengthens its protections to ensure an individual's right to ethical treatment throughout the CARE Court process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lili Bosse
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblymember, 50th District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange