



**California  
Behavioral Health  
Planning Council**

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

**CHAIRPERSON**  
Tony Vartan

July 29, 2025

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Jenny Bayardo

The Honorable Anna Caballero, Chair

Senate Committee on Appropriations

1021 O Street, Suite 7620

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 1328 – Medi-Cal Reimbursements:  
nonemergency ambulance and other transportation**

Dear Senator Caballero:

On behalf of the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC), I am writing to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1328 (Rodriguez).

The CBHPC serves as an advisory body to the Legislature and the Administration on behavioral health policies and priorities, as outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5771 and 5772. Our diverse membership includes individuals with lived experience of serious mental illness and substance use disorders, family members, service providers, professionals, and representatives from state departments whose work intersects with California's behavioral health system. Their perspectives are essential in our evaluation of the public behavioral health system and shape the Council's recommendations.

AB 1328 seeks to set the Medi-Cal fee-for-service reimbursement for nonemergency ambulance transportation services to an amount equal to 80 percent of the amount set forth in the federal Medicare ambulance fee schedule for the corresponding level of service.

Non-emergency ambulance transportation personnel provide essential services for beneficiaries who are unable to use other means of public or private transportation due to medical, mental health or physical conditions. They ensure timely and safe transfers to other medical facilities, long-term care centers, or other specified locations for continued care and treatment. However, Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for ambulatory transportation

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services have historically been subpar, creating financial strain and unsustainable operations that have led providers to shut down entirely or discontinuance of specific services including non-emergency transportation.

Without access to these services, beneficiaries and their families may struggle to find safe and reliable transportation alternatives. We believe increasing reimbursement rates will improve the status quo of California's ambulatory transportation industry and help ensure continued access to services for Medi-Cal recipients.

For these reasons, the Council proudly supports AB 1328. If you have questions about our position, please contact Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer, at (916) 750-3778 or via e-mail at [Jenny.Bayardo@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Jenny.Bayardo@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Tony Vartan, Chairperson

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez  
Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
James Malone, Legislative Director  
Nick Tapio, Legislative Assistant