



**California  
Behavioral Health  
Planning Council**

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

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**MS 2706**

July 10, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 7620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 255 – The Supportive-Recovery Residence Program**

Dear Senator Caballero:

On behalf of the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC), I am writing to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 255 (Haney).

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 255 seeks to authorize state programs to fund supportive-recovery residences that emphasize abstinence, provided that at least 90% of program funds are allocated to housing or housing-based services implementing a harm-reduction model.

We recognize the foundational role of autonomy and self-determination in recovery, as individuals empowered to make their own choices regarding their treatment demonstrate greater motivation thus are more likely to engage meaningfully and sustain long-term participation and progress.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ryan, R. M., & Deci, E. L. (2000). Self-determination theory and the facilitation of intrinsic motivation, social development, and well-being. *American Psychologist*, 55(1), 68–78. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.55.1.68>



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Effective treatment recognizes that a standardized approach to recovery cannot address the unique needs and circumstances of every individual. We acknowledge that wellness and recovery may be achieved through multiple pathways that support individuals in reaching their full potential.

By including abstinence-based supportive-recovery housing alongside the Housing First model, California can expand housing resources for persons with behavioral health challenges that require this type of housing to support their recovery. AB 255 will ensure access to various housing options that beneficiaries find suitable and elect for their recovery, which is essential to promote autonomy, respect individual self-determination, and facilitate individualized pathways to long-term wellness and recovery.

As the state prepares to implement the Behavioral Health Transformation amid rising behavioral health needs and homelessness, it is crucial for California to identify alternative housing solutions to augment resources in support of equitable access to stable and supportive housing for individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorders.

For these reasons, the Council proudly supports AB 255. 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 Matt Haney  
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Yasamin Salari, Legislative Director  
Doonya Mahmoud, Legislative Aide