



**California
Behavioral Health
Planning Council**

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

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May 16, 2025

The Honorable Pilar Schiavo
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room #4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Support** for AJR 3

Dear Assemblymember Schiavo,

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council strongly supports Assembly Joint Resolution 3. The California Behavioral Health Planning Council serves as an advisory body to the Legislature and Administration on the policies and priorities that this state should pursue in developing its behavioral health system per Welfare and Institutions Code §5771 and §5772. Our membership includes persons with lived experience of serious mental illness and substance use disorder, family members, professionals, providers, and representatives from state departments whose populations touch the behavioral health system.

Medicaid is the largest payor for behavioral health services in the United States and covers roughly 30 percent of mental health services and 20 percent of substance use treatment. With approximately 15 million Californians enrolled in Medi-Cal, including 2 in 5 people with a mental illness or substance use, the consequences of an \$880 billion cuts in Medicaid would adversely affect California's public behavioral health system. Among those at risk of losing coverage and services are 29.7 percent of adults with a mental health condition including 10 percent of these individuals who have a serious mental illness, and 5 million children who receive comprehensive health services including mental health care.

We urge state's Representatives in Congress to vote against cuts to, and proposals to privatize, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and would call on the President of the United States to veto any legislation to cut or privatize these programs. The CBHPC advocates for and supports actions that will protect and sustain federal funding of Medi-Cal and other critical



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funding streams that support California's public behavioral health system as these funds are required to ensure persons served by the public behavioral health system have the critical services needed.

For these reasons, the Council proudly supports AJR 3. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer, at (916) 750-3778 or by e-mail at Jenny.Bayardo@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer on behalf of
Tony Vartan, Chairperson

cc: Franklin Porter, Legislative Director