



JENNIFER KENT
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Portantino:

ASSEMBLY BILL 920 (AS AMENDED JUNE 25, 2019) – OPPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Assembly Bill (AB) 920, which would require DHCS to convene a technical advisory workgroup comprised of relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, experts in addiction treatment, consumer and patient protection advocates, and counties, to review and prepare recommendations regarding potential changes to current laws and regulations relevant to substance use disorder (SUD) services.

Although DHCS values stakeholder feedback, DHCS opposes AB 920 because the bill is duplicative of DHCS' Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee (BH-SAC). The BH-SAC advises DHCS on behavioral health topics, including prevention, treatment, and recovery services, as well as related Medi-Cal waivers for SUD and mental health. As appropriate, the BH-SAC could be utilized to obtain recommendations regarding potential changes to current laws and regulations relevant to SUD services.

Because DHCS already has a venue to solicit stakeholder feedback in place to address ongoing concerns regarding SUD services this bill is unnecessary.

For these reasons, DHCS must oppose AB 920.

If you have any questions regarding our position, please feel free to contact me at (916) 440-7500.

Sincerely,

O/S Carol Gallegos

Carol Gallegos, Deputy Director

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Legislative & Governmental Affairs
Department of Health Care Services

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris
State Capitol, Room 4144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Vice Chair and Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Republican Caucus
Senate Floor Analysis
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