



OFFICERS

**President**

Ed Valenzuela  
Siskiyou County

**1st Vice President**

Chuck Washington  
Riverside County

**2nd Vice President**

Bruce Gibson  
San Luis Obispo County

**Past President**

James Gore  
Sonoma County



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Graham Knaus

August 31, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1302 (Portantino) – Pupil health: school-based health centers: grant program: Mental Health Services Act: Mental Health Services Fund REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) respectfully requests your veto of Senate Bill 1302 by Senator Anthony Portantino. This measure diverts \$250 million from the Mental Health Services Fund to support the school-based health centers through grants issued by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Although the intent of establishing and improving the provision of behavioral health services to students at school-based health centers is meritorious, counties strongly oppose any effort to redirect Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to other services instead of the local services for which it was originally intended. MHSA funds have been diverted in the past due to economic challenges and the establishment of the No Place Like Home Program. Any further diversions of MHSA funding will be disruptive to programming at the local level.

It is particularly worrisome that SB 1302 would divert MHSA funding just as the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act (SB 1338) is on the precipice of enactment. Your Administration has suggested MHSA as a potential revenue source to pay for new and expanded services to CARE Act participants with schizophrenia and other psychotic diagnoses. However, counties do not anticipate the CARE Act can be appropriately implemented without additional, ongoing funding, and legislation diverting MHSA revenues for other purposes will impose additional challenges on counties' ability to successfully implement the CARE Act.

For these reasons, CSAC must respectfully request your veto of SB 1302. If there are any questions about our position, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jonodera@counties.org](mailto:jonodera@counties.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Jolie Onodera  
Senior Legislative Representative  
California State Association of Counties©

cc: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Senator  
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary  
Nicole Muñoz-Murillo, Deputy Legislative Secretary