



April 3, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1397 (Eggman): Behavioral health services coverage.
As amended on March 20, 2024 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing on April 10, 2024 – Senate Health Committee**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the state's 58 counties, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) are pleased to support Senate Bill (SB) 1397 by Senator Susan Eggman. This measure establishes a mechanism for county behavioral health agencies to recoup reimbursement from commercial plans for privately insured clients referred to services through Full Service Partnerships (FSPs).

FSPs provide comprehensive, intensive, community-based services and case management to those facing severe mental health conditions and play a critical role in preventing long-term institutionalization. All counties offer FSP services, which are unique for their low staff to client ratio, 24/7 availability, and "whatever it takes" approach tailored to the individual needs of a client. FSPs have been proven to help prevent costly hospitalizations, criminal justice involvement, and homelessness among clients.

Although the primary focus of county behavioral health agencies is to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries, they often serve the commercially insured who are unable to access certain specialty behavioral services through their commercial insurance, including crisis intervention services, first episode psychosis, FSPs, or other critical behavioral health services. Although counties fund services to individuals with commercial plans to the extent resources are available, they must prioritize their Medi-Cal plan responsibilities.

SB 1397 will create a reimbursement mechanism for county behavioral health agencies to recover the costs of providing lifesaving behavioral health services to commercially insured clients through FSPs. It is for these reasons that CSAC, UCC, and RCRC support this measure. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact our organizations.

Sincerely,



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
jonodera@counties.org



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org

cc: The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Senator
Honorable Members, Senate Health Committee
Teri Boughton, Principal Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Anna Billy, Office of Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman