



JENNIFER KENT  
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

August 16, 2019

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

Dear Senator Portantino:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1443 (AS AMENDED MARCH 25, 2019) – OPPOSE**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Assembly Bill (AB) 1443, which would require the Mental Health Services Oversight Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), to establish technical assistance centers to support counties in addressing mental health issues that are of statewide concern.

Although DHCS agrees with the premise of supporting counties with technical assistance centers to address mental health issues, DHCS opposes AB 1443 because the bill duplicates work efforts currently performed by contractors within DHCS. This bill would allow two separate entities to oversee the provision of technical assistance to counties in addressing mental health issues without requiring coordination at the state level.

Finally, DHCS receives Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) administrative funding to provide statewide training and technical assistance to county mental health departments to improve the provision of MHSA-funded programs and the mental health system. This bill would duplicate services that are currently being provided through a DHCS-funded contract.

For these reasons, DHCS must oppose AB 1443.

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

Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Page 2  
August 16, 2019

Legislative & Governmental Affairs  
Department of Health Care Services

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Brian Maienschein  
State Capitol, Room 2170  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Vice Chair and Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senate Republican Caucus  
Senate Floor Analysis  
Department of Finance  
CHHSA Legislative Unit  
GO Deputy Legislative Secretary