



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



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SENATE BILL SB 749 (AS AMENDED MAY 25, 2021) – OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 749. SB 749 would, contingent on appropriation, require 1) the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), in consultation with state and local mental health authorities, to create a comprehensive tracking program for county spending on mental and behavioral health programs and services, including funding sources, funding utilization, and outcome data at the program, service, and statewide levels, 2) counties to annually report to the MHSOAC, in a manner determined by the MHSOAC, all the information for the preceding year, including expenditures in each of the major categories established by the MHSOAC, unspent funding dedicated to mental and behavioral health programs and services from all major sources, and program and service-level outcomes, and; 3) the MHSOAC to annually report the results of the county reporting to the Governor's office and the Legislature, and post the report on the MHSOAC's internet website.

While DHCS supports increasing the quality of data and information collection for behavioral health programs and services, DHCS is opposed to SB 749 because collecting and tracking county spending information, including expenditures outside of the Mental Health Services Fund, goes beyond the scope of the MHSOAC. DHCS, rather than the MHSOAC, could be the appropriate agency to develop and administer a comprehensive behavioral health tracking program that would cover all publicly funded behavioral health programs. However, due to the extensive resources this could require, the more appropriate avenue to pursue this goal would be through the annual budget process.

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

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Sincerely,

O/S by Carol Gallegos

Carol Gallegos, Deputy Director  
Legislative & Governmental Affairs  
Department of Health Care Services

cc: Senator Steve Glazer, Author  
Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez (Chair, Assembly Appropriations  
Committee)  
Assemblymember Frank Bigelow (Vice Chair, Assembly Appropriations  
Committee)  
Assemblymember Isaac G. Bryan  
Assemblymember Lisa Calderon  
Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo  
Assemblymember Ed Chau  
Assemblymember Megan Dahle  
Assemblymember Laurie Davies  
Assemblymember Vince Fong  
Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel  
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia  
Assemblymember Marc Levine  
Assemblymember Bill Quirk  
Assemblymember Robert Rivas  
Assembly member Akilah Weber, M.D.