



JENNIFER KENT
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

July 19, 2019

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

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

SENATE BILL 445 (AS AMENDED JUNE 11, 2019) - OPPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 445, which would establish the Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act and require DHCS to convene an expert panel, as specified, on or before January 1, 2021, to advise DHCS solely on the development of youth substance use disorder (SUD) treatment quality standards.

DHCS is supportive of efforts to address the lack of youth SUD prevention and treatment resources, however DHCS recommends an oppose position for SB 445 because the bill is unnecessary and counterproductive to DHCS's current efforts to address youth SUD treatment. DHCS is currently collaborating with a variety of partners and stakeholders, including counties, youth providers, and community representatives to continue efforts to enhance the system of care for youth SUD services. This bill would duplicate work that was previously done by the DHCS Youth Advisory Group (YAG), such as composition of the draft Youth Services Policy Manual (YSPM).

Beginning July 2019, the work of the YAG has been assumed by the newly formed DHCS Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee (BH-SAC), which partners with many of the same stakeholders listed in the bill. While the BH-SAC is a collaborative body that includes DHCS as a partner/participant, the "expert panel" created by SB 445 does not include DHCS as a participant but as a one-way recipient of policy directives. In addition, by placing restrictions on which entities a county could contract with, this bill would narrow a county's network and limit access to services. The bill also prescribes a one-size fits all approach to the counties in administering the provision of youth SUD treatment services, an approach that may not be appropriate in all instances.

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

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
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Sincerely,

o/s/by: CG

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

cc: The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

Vice Chair and Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus
Assembly Floor Analysis
Department of Finance
CHHSA Legislative Unit
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