



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

825 5th Street, Suite 111, Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Telephone (707) 476-2390

Aug. 18, 2020

The Honorable Mike McGuire
1303 10th Street, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: (AB 1976) (Eggman): Mental health services: assisted outpatient treatment - SUPPORT

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to join with our county's Behavioral Health Board to express our support for AB 1976 (Eggman) Mental health services: assisted outpatient treatment (Laura's Law), which would make permanent the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Demonstration Project Act of 2002.

We understand that AB 1976 seeks to require a county (or a group of counties) to implement Laura's Law unless the Board of Supervisors approves a resolution to opt-out. In order to protect existing services, the bill prohibits a county implementing Laura's Law from reducing existing voluntary mental health programs serving adults, or children's mental health programs, as a result of implementation. The bill also adds a Superior Court judge to those authorized to request a petition for an order of AOT for people who meet criteria.

While Humboldt County has not chosen to implement AOT, we join with our county's Behavioral Health Board in support of this bill as we continue to consider this important option to address the needs of some of our most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Jim Wood
California State Association of Counties
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
Rural County Representatives of California
Shaw/Yoder/Antwith/Schmelzer & Lange