

The Honorable Mike McGuire
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1352 (Waldron) Community mental health services: mental health boards - Support

Dear Senator McGuire:

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (BOS) supports AB 1352 (Waldron) which would clarify the role, make-up and administration of local mental health boards.

Humboldt County utilizes a citizens Behavioral Health Board (BHB) to advise the BOS and advocate on matters related to both mental health and substance use disorder needs and services within the county. The BHB is an integral part of our continuum of care, bringing the voices of consumers, family members and transition-age youths forward in order to improve overall services. AB 1352 seeks to affirm the independence of local mental/behavioral health boards, clarify their responsibilities and establish goals for the board. The bill also would require a written response by county departments if substantive recommendations by the BHB are not included in the final Mental Health Services Act plan or subsequent updates.

Humboldt County supports legislation that protects and addresses the needs of vulnerable residents in the community. We are pleased to join with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the Steinberg Institute in our support for AB 1352.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn
Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

cc: Shaw/Yoder/Antwith, Inc.
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA)
Tim Ash, Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board