



County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord

County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors
Phillip R. Serna, District 1
Patrick Kennedy, District 2
Rich Desmond, District 3
Sue Frost, District 4
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August 7, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 402 (Wahab). Involuntary Commitment.
Oppose (As amended July 3, 2024)**

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully write to oppose SB 402 (Wahab).

The County supports early intervention, prevention and voluntary treatment programs that help prevent the escalation of behavioral health crises before it leads to involuntary 5150 holds and law enforcement involvement. The County successfully implemented 988 mobile crisis response teams and we prioritize quality service to this population. Under current law, counties can already designate those who do not explicitly work for, or are contracted by, a county, to initiate or lift 5150 holds, with emergency room doctors the most frequently designated among this group.

SB 402, by explicitly elevating licensed mental health providers in this role, expands those reaching out to counties for designation, to initiate what should be a tool of last resort. By seeking to increase the number of those who might designate holds, regardless of their profession, SB 402 would lead to more law enforcement involvement. Regardless of who initiates a hold, an individual unwilling to go to a facility for evaluation and treatment under the LPS Act requires involuntary detention and transportation to get there. When individuals are unwilling or unable to be transported by mobile crisis teams, often law enforcement is called to provide transportation. There is nothing in this bill that would curtail their role in LPS and in fact this bill could unintentionally increase their involvement in detention and transportation of these dispersed and uncoordinated holds.

The County is concerned about the education and training burdens that would expand under this bill, as well as the liability associated with an expansion of those who can initiate holds. Vastly expanding those who can initiate 5150 holds among mental health providers undermines the trust and therapeutic alliance between clinician and client, which is critical to recovery.

Involuntary 5150 holds should be a tool of last resort, undertaken with training and a high sense of responsibility. This can only happen with a partnership between behavioral health professionals and law enforcement to ensure the safety of clients, our workforce, and our communities.

August 7, 2024

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For these reasons, Sacramento County opposes SB 402. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Respectfully,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Sacramento County Delegation
Chair and Members, Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies