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March 25, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 618 (Krell) Medi-Cal: behavioral health: data sharing—
CO-SPONSOR**

Dear Chair Bonta,

Local Health Plans of California (LHPC), the statewide trade association representing all 17 of California's non-for-profit and community-based health plans who collectively cover 70% of the state's Medi-Cal managed care enrollees, or nearly 9.3 million Californians, is proud to **co-sponsor Assembly Bill 618 (Krell)**. AB 618 (Krell) will mandate the exchange of data between Medi-Cal managed care plans and the Medi-Cal county behavioral health delivery system to facilitate better coordination of care between the two delivery systems and better measurement of the quality of that care.

As California continues to overhaul the state's Medi-Cal and behavioral health delivery systems through large and ambitious initiatives such as CalAIM and BHT, it is becoming increasingly evident that consistent and complete data sharing is critical to achieving the goals of those initiatives and to ultimately ensuring better health outcomes for Medi-Cal members. Close collaboration and coordination between Medi-Cal managed care plans and the Medi-Cal county behavioral health delivery system necessitates the exchange of data between the two delivery systems and the consequences for not reliably exchanging complete data continues to grow. The coordination of care for Medi-Cal members, the ability to truly assess the quality of care being delivered, and successful implementation of these promising initiatives are all dependent on the exchange of consistent and real-time data sharing.

Current guidance on data sharing from DHCS has historically been permissive in nature, leading to inconsistent interpretation of that guidance, and therefore, inconsistent data sharing across the state. AB 618 (Krell) ensures consistent and complete exchange of data between Medi-Cal managed care plans and the

Medi-Cal county behavioral health delivery system by requiring the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to develop clear and directive guidance mandating the two delivery systems share data in compliance with all state and federal rules.

For these reasons **LHPC is pleased to co-sponsor AB (618) Krell and respectfully requests your “aye” vote** to ensure that the Medi-Cal delivery system will be better equipped to meet the important goals of CalAIM and BHT and ensure that Medi-Cal members receive the comprehensive, coordinated, high-quality care that they deserve. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me via the contact information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katie Andrew', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Katie Andrew
Director of Government Affairs, Quality & Behavioral Health
Local Health Plans of California
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cc: Assemblymember Maggy Krell
Members, Assembly Health Committee