



April 7, 2026

Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
1021 O Street, Suite 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 874 (Weber Pierson) Medi-Cal: behavioral health treatment workgroup—
SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Weber Pierson,

Local Health Plans of California (LHPC) is the statewide trade association representing all 17 of California's public and not-for-profit community-based health plans, which collectively cover 70% of the state's Medi-Cal managed care enrollees or nearly 9.7 million Californians. We are pleased to express our support for SB 874, which advances important safeguards in the delivery of behavioral health treatment (BHT) services.

SB 874 takes meaningful steps to strengthen program integrity by requiring the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to convene a stakeholder workgroup that will inform important clarifying guidance with regards to the delivery of BHT services. The bill also bolsters patient safety by ensuring vulnerable Medi-Cal members—particularly children with autism—receive high-quality, safe, and accountable care. LHPC appreciates the willingness of you and your staff to accelerate the implementation timeline within the bill and to include clarifying language to address the need for a centralized process to collect and retain information related to background checks for unlicensed providers delivering BHT. This clarification will ensure a statewide, coordinated approach to avoid duplication of effort, avoid inconsistent standards and processes, and reduce administrative burden.

LHPC appreciates your leadership in advancing policies that improve the safety and quality of behavioral health services in the Medi-Cal program and are proud to support SB 874. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your office as the bill continues to move through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie Andrew", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Katie Andrew
Director of Government Affairs, Quality & Behavioral Health
Local Health Plans of California