



May 12, 2026

Honorable Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair Cervantes,

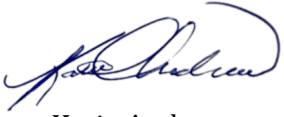
Local Health Plans of California (LHPC) is the statewide trade association representing all 17 of California's public and not-for-profit community-based health plans, which collectively cover 70 percent of the state's Medi-Cal managed care enrollees, or nearly 9.7 million Californians. LHPC is pleased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

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 regarding 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. In addition, establishing clearer guardrails and statewide standards for the BHT benefit has the potential to generate long-term cost savings for the Medi-Cal program by reducing inappropriate utilization, minimizing administrative duplication, improving oversight, and promoting more consistent and effective delivery of services.

LHPC appreciates the author's willingness to accelerate the implementation timeline within the bill and to include clarifying language addressing the need for a centralized process to collect and retain information related to background checks for unlicensed providers delivering BHT. This clarification will help ensure a coordinated statewide approach that avoids inconsistent standards, reduces unnecessary administrative burden, and supports more efficient program administration across Medi-Cal.

LHPC appreciates Senator Weber Pierson's leadership in advancing policies that improve the safety, quality, and accountability of behavioral health services in Medi-Cal. We are proud to support SB 874 and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the author and Committee as the bill moves through the legislative process.

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