



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

MARTIN HOSHINO
Administrative Director

CORY T. JASPERSON
Director, Governmental Affairs

September 8, 2020

Hon. Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 855 (Wiener) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Judicial Council respectfully requests your signature on SB 855, which requires a health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, that provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, as defined, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. It also prohibits a health care service plan or health insurer from limiting benefits or coverage for chronic or pervasive mental health and substance use disorders to short-term or acute treatment.

The Judicial Council supports SB 855 because it will help support health care plan and disability insurance coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders for individuals involved in Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, and other Collaborative Justice Courts. While Collaborative Justice Courts provide access to a continuum of services, including treatment and rehabilitation services, the council notes that obtaining appropriate treatment is often difficult when individuals are covered by private insurance as opposed to Medi-Cal. As a result, these individuals often consider dropping their private insurance and moving to Medi-Cal so that they can receive appropriate treatment. In many other instances they are simply unable to successfully participate in a Collaborative Justice Court program because they cannot receive insurance coverage for the

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diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders even when the treatment is part of the court ordered treatment plan.
For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on SB 855.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Sharon Reilly at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Sent September 8, 2020

Cory T. Jaspersen
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/SR/jh

cc: Hon. Scott Wiener, Member of the Senate
Mr. Anthony Williams, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California



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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
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Director, Governmental Affairs

August 12, 2020

Hon. Scott Wiener
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 855 (Wiener), as amended August 6, 2020 – Support

Dear Senator Wiener:

The Judicial Council is pleased to SB 855, which requires a health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, that provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, as defined, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. It also prohibits a health care service plan or health insurer from limiting benefits or coverage for chronic or pervasive mental health and substance use disorders to short-term or acute treatment.

The Judicial Council supports SB 855 because it will help support health care plan and disability insurance coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders for individuals involved in Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, and other Collaborative Justice Courts. While Collaborative Justice Courts provide access to a continuum of services, including treatment and rehabilitation services, the council notes that obtaining appropriate treatment is often difficult when individuals are covered by private insurance as opposed to Medi-Cal. As a result, these individuals often consider dropping their private insurance and moving to Medi-Cal so that they can receive appropriate treatment. In many other instances they are simply unable to successfully participate in a Collaborative Justice Court program because they cannot receive insurance coverage for the

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diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders even when the treatment is part of the court ordered treatment plan.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is pleased to support SB 855.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Mailed August 12, 2020

Sharon Reilly
Attorney

SR/jh

cc: Ms. Julie Snyder, The Steinberg Institute
Ms. Lauren Finke, The Sutter Health- Kennedy Forum
Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California