



ISABEL AGUAYO  
Mayor

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO  
Vice Mayor

PEGGY LEMONS  
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS  
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS  
Councilmember

August 10, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8530  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT – SB 326 (EGGMAN) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT AND  
AB 531 (IRWIN) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE BOND ACT OF  
2023**

Dear Senator Eggman and Assemblymember Irwin:

The City of Paramount would like to express its support for SB 326 and AB 531, a legislative package supported by Governor Gavin Newsom that will transform the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The proposed package aims to enact a \$4.86 billion bond measure to build 10,000 new community behavioral health beds and housing to provide care to Californians of all ages with serious mental health and substance use disorders.

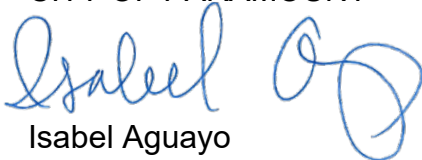
As part of the City's Vision, Mission, and Values, Paramount provides fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant, safe, and inclusive community for all individuals.

California is facing a confluence of crises - homelessness, serious mental illness, and substance use disorders - and this moment demands bold and comprehensive action. Among Californians experiencing homelessness, nearly 40,000 have a serious mental illness and over 36,000 have a chronic substance use disorder. A recent RAND study indicates the state has a shortage of at least 6,000 behavioral health beds. This lack of sufficient capacity leads not only to unnecessary long lengths of stays in locked settings and hospitals but contributes to the growing crisis. The need for mental health and substance use services is even more acute among our state's veterans. There are over 10,000 California veterans experiencing homelessness on any given night; upwards of 50% or more of homeless veterans suffer from mental health issues and around 70% are affected by substance use disorders. The proposed bond would dedicate a portion of the funding to provide the support our veterans deserve.

These actions will build upon California's transformative behavioral health care expansion and accomplishments to date, including the CARE Act (formerly Care Court), the Children's and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, the CalAIM expansion of behavioral health services in Medi-Cal, historic investments in behavioral health housing and infrastructure, veterans' health and housing initiatives, and behavioral health workforce investments – to provide a continuum of community care for all.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount strongly supports SB 326 and AB 531. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. On behalf of the City of Paramount, we thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Isabel Aguayo  
Mayor

CC. Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District  
Honorable Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, 62nd District  
Kristine Guerrero, Regional Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities  
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association